# Daily Report
## East Asia

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## NORTHEAST ASIA

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## Japan

### Roundtable Discussion on PRC, Foreign Ties

*OW0604082892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Sixty-minute roundtable discussion by Sakutaro Tanino, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau; Ryoichi Kawai, chairman of the Japan-China Association of Economy and Trade; Toshio Watanabe, Tokyo Institute of Technology professor; Nobuo Maruyama, chief of the Economic Cooperation Study Team, Institute of Developing Economies; and Tomoyuki Kojima, Keio University professor; with NHK chief commentator Korehito Obama acting as moderator—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Obama] Well, there can be no end to such talks [about Chinese internal politics]. Let us change the topic. General Secretary Jiang Zemin will be coming to Japan tomorrow. This visit is to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of ties between Japan and China. But, what do you think is the real purpose of the visit? What do you think, Mr. Kawai?

[Kawai] When I visited China last year, he [Jiang] said: Next year will be the 20th anniversary. Let us conduct various exchanges. There will also be various events. Let us have many activities. They seemed to be giving much importance to the 20th anniversary as a milestone.

Let me return to economic issues. As we usher in the 20th year, last year, 1991, two-way trade volume surpassed the $20 billion mark for the first time. The figure for last year rose sharply to $22.8 billion.

[Obama] You mean Japan-China trade?

[Kawai] Yes, including both imports and exports. At the same time, in terms of investment, the highest level up to 1990 was $400 to $500 million—I mean $450 million. This increased sharply to $810 million last year. Not only Japan, but from an international perspective, investments of various countries in China, which used to be around $7 to $8 billion, rose to $11 billion in 1991 alone. I think this shows that Japan, as well as the other countries, have come to have confidence in China's open-door policy, and think that it is safe as an investment base. I feel that such results serve as a background to the recent moves of Deng Xiaoping [to promote the reformist line].

[Obama] Mr. Maruyama, what do you think is the main purpose of Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan?

[Maruyama] I think there are political and economic objectives. In terms of economic objectives at present in China, while the localities, the enterprises and individuals all have money, the national government is penniless. The state finances have been in the red for three straight years. On the other hand, infrastructure and energy development, and the Eighth Five-Year Plan require enormous funds. However, the central government has no money. In that respect, he will request various forms of funds from Japan, particularly for the major projects. That is one economic objective.

Another point, as Mr. Kawai stated, is that the scale of investment between Japan and China has expanded significantly. Joint ventures with Japan have been established continuously, particularly in Dalian. Therefore, the existing form of division of labor, that is, manufacturing the products in China and selling them in Japan, is changing from a vertical relationship to a horizontal one. That shows how much interdependence there is. In that sense, China would like to further confirm this interdependence. These are the economic objectives.

As to political objectives, China is conducting a diplomacy of peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries. What worries it most at this time is the deterioration in relations with the United States. In view of this fact, it needs to strengthen the relationship of alliance with Japan. I think this constitutes one political objective.

[Obama] Mr. Maruyama pointed out that relations with the United States are deteriorating. What do you think, Mr. Kojima?

[Kojima] I agree. Since the Tiananmen incident, China has been isolated internationally. However, in the span of nearly two and a half years, restoration of ties with Japan and the advanced countries in Europe, not to mention the neighboring Asian countries, has almost been completed. The remaining problem is relations with the United States. In my opinion, the Chinese side has made as many concessions as possible. Yet, due to the existing conditions in the United States—the fact that there is strong criticism in the U.S. Congress and in public opinion against the PRC on the issues of human rights and democracy with the presidential election near at hand—it is difficult for the Bush administration to make any moves. Under the circumstances, I think the greatest bottleneck in China's foreign relations is its ties with the United States. At this stage, while there have been improvements in some aspects, relations cannot be said to have been fully restored.

Therefore, one of the objectives of Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan will be to ask Japan to act as intermediary in China's relations with the United States, if possible. I think that will be one aspect of the visit.

[Obama] Mr. Tanino, Mr. Kojima said that China might want Japan to act as intermediary in its ties with the United States. What do you think?

[Tanino] Two hours have been set aside for talks between Mr. Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Miyazawa. We cannot really say whether two hours is too long or too short. In any case, I do not think they can cover all the topics. At present, China-U.S. relations... As I mentioned a while ago, China's relations with the West, including Japan, after the Tiananmen incident have improved quite significantly; good relations have been restored. In that context, relations with the United States have not been restored completely. But I do not think that their relations are seriously deteriorating. At the working level, the issues of PRC membership in the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and intellectual property rights have been disposed of one by one. Under the circumstances, I think the problem is human rights. The United States is questioning this. However, if it pokes its finger into this, China thinks that this has to do with the question of how the country should be ruled, which we discussed a while ago. This is an issue bearing on the very foundation of political rule. China is very sensitive about this. However, the stability and improvement of U.S.-China relations is, needless to say, important to the two countries, while it also bears on Japan-China relations. Stable U.S.-China relations are also necessary and desirable for the Asia and Pacific region. From this standpoint, I think Prime Minister Miyazawa will take up the topic with Jiang Zemin. Foreign Minister Watanabe takes a very positive attitude on this issue. He has being doing a lot of things as an intermediary between Messrs. Baker and Qian Qichen. We have a lot of interest in the matter. It is in Japan's interest that U.S.-China relations be as good as possible.

[Obama] Mr. Watanabe, talking about U.S.-China relations, how do you look at the prospects of relations between China and Russia and the former Soviet Union?

[Watanabe] Well, that is a very difficult question. The Soviet Union disintegrated in such a manner. It has been divided into republics and autonomous units. It is difficult to draw up a scenario of China-Soviet relations. However, specific local economic relations, such as border trade with Russia and the various republics of the Soviet Union, may come to pass.

Putting this issue aside, may I add something to the earlier discussion on U.S.-China relations?

[Obama] Yes, please.

[Watanabe] As you have just said, even from the economic point of view, there is a possibility that U.S.-China relations will become more and more complicated in the future. Actually, both the United States and China have a surplus of imports over exports. This is strange, isn't it? It is impossible that both countries have an import surplus in bilateral trade. This depends on the method of compiling statistics. The United States takes the country of manufacture as the criterion—something produced in China that enters the United States through Hong Kong is counted as a Chinese product. This is a realistic method. Based on this, there is a huge surplus of U.S. imports from China. This fact has a great impact on the issue of giving Most-Favored-Nation treatment to China. On the part of China, it has been doing what it could to send off signals, such as lifting martial law and early release of the detainees from the Tiananmen incident, and each time, the resolution of the issue of Most-Favored-Nation treatment has been postponed for one more year. However, we do not know what will happen in the future. If that happens [Most-Favored-Nation treatment is refused] the torch in Guangdong Province will be put out, as Mr. Tanino earlier expressed his concern, or its vitality will be reduced. Hong Kong, the center of the West Pacific, will also lose its strength. There will be a very serious impact on the West Pacific as a whole. I really feel that this is an important issue that we must not overlook.

[Obama] Mr. Kawai, is it much easier for Japan to establish joint ventures and promote economic cooperation in China than in the former USSR?

[Kawai] As I stated earlier, the USSR became the CIS at a stage when there had not been any significant progress in trade and investments in the USSR. At that time, existing projects were just a few dozen. Compared to this, there had been great progress in investment between Japan and China even 10 years ago. Well, the fact that we have established such a relationship of trust is an important development. However, is Japan quite satisfied? It seems that I have been praising China all along. To cite the issue of investment environment; or, to be specific, so far we have been signing the Chinese form of trade contracts. However, as China internationalizes—it has expressed the intention to joint the GATT—it has to adapt the form of its contracts to the international form. It has basically agreed to execute a comprehensive revision beginning in June this year. Such things would have been unthinkable in the past. Take another example, as I mentioned earlier, renminbi and Foreign Exchange Certificiates will be unified into one currency. In terms of investment environment, during the economic mission in September, we expressed very specific views on nine or 10 items. A written reply came—something which had never been done before. Things like that have been gradually changing.

[Obama] Mr. Maruyama, please go ahead.

[Maruyama] As Mr. Kawai just mentioned, China has been learning from its practical international dealings. It would be desirable for Japan-China relations to develop in this direction. At present, there is a significant increase in exports to China from Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong, as well as Japan. This is, to a certain degree, a diversification of exports to the United States. That is, the United States has cancelled Most-Favored-Nation treatment of Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong, and is very strict on them. Therefore, exports to United States are being channeled through China. At present, Japan has invested and established joint ventures in the coastal areas. Where to take the products will eventually become a major problem. In order to have good relations between Japan, China and the United States, it will not do to pour all the products into the United States—this will aggravate conflicts between the three nations. I think the question of how Japan will absorb the products will be an important issue in Japan-U.S.-China relations.

[Obama] Mr. Tanino, please go ahead.

[Tanino] I would like to speak about Mr. Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan—although much has been said on this subject this morning. I said earlier that he will have an opportunity to talk with Prime Minister Miyazawa for two hours. I strongly feel that... well, the prime minister will conduct the talks, I cannot talk about the details. Certainly, the management of Japan-China relations in a narrow sense, the economic issues, investment and economic cooperation, is very important. However, in addition to this, there is another point of view. That is, in view of the active talks about a so-called new order in the international community, and developments on the Korean peninsula, under the circumstances, Japan and China should cooperate on whatever issues they can. They should also think about peace and stability in the Asia and Pacific region in a strategic sense from their own viewpoints, and consider how they can cooperate, or the roles they can play through this cooperation. We hope that there will be discussions on this. It does not sound pleasant to us, but China often says that an economic power will certainly become a political power, and a political power will become a military power. To deal with such a one-sided view, we must continue to make our view fully understood. If China tells us: we understand, let us work together in the UN Security Council; or Japan, please enter the Security Council as the sixth permament member, gloomy thoughts about China in certain quarters of Japan will be eliminated considerably. However, China is still wary in that respect. When it comes to the question of the Security Council, it is not only China which has reservations. It is very regretful. We would like to continue to discuss this. [passage omitted on closing remarks by Obama and others].

## Reportage on Visit of PRC's Jiang Zemin

### 'Unforeseen Complications' Noted

*OW0404004392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2359 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 4 (KYODO)—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin will arrive in Tokyo Monday on a five-day visit marking the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

But Foreign Ministry sources said the highlight of the visit, a statement of Japan's intention to have Emperor Akihito visit China in the autumn, is unlikely to materialize because of unforeseen complications in the relationship.

Jiang said Wednesday in Beijing that he will repeat China's invitation to the emperor in his talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

During his three days in Tokyo, Jiang will have an audience with the emperor, deliver a commemorative speech on the anniversary of diplomatic ties, meet with political and business leaders, and hold a press conference.

A top Foreign Ministry source earlier had said Jiang's visit would be a chance for Japan to make clear its stance on the emperor's prospective visit to China.

Sources now say Japan most likely will go no further than to reiterate to Jiang the answer it has given on numerous occasions—that the invitation would be taken into "serious consideration."

Behind the cool reaction lies irritation in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) over several issues recently brought to the fore, including China's reassertion of sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands held by Japan.

### Jiang Zemin's Itinerary Reported

*OW0604013292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0122 GMT 06 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin arrives in Tokyo early Monday afternoon for a five-day visit as part of 20th anniversary celebrations of the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

Jiang will meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for two hours at the Akasaka Guesthouse on Monday afternoon to discuss promoting bilateral relations toward the 21st century, Japanese officials said.

The two leaders will also exchange views on international affairs, such as the Korean peninsula, the former Soviet Union, Indochina, and security in the Asian-Pacific region, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Jiang's visit is one of a series of diplomatic exchanges to mark the anniversary.

He is the first prominent Chinese leader to visit Japan since the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989.

In the Jiang-Miyazawa meeting, the sources said the prime minister will express Japan's basic intention to provide economic cooperation to China but refrain from giving a specific reply to China's request last May for a 700 billion yen loan for energy development.

As for Beijing's repeated invitation for Emperor Akihito to visit China this year, Tokyo will go no further than reiterating it will be given "serious consideration" because of unforeseen complications in relations, they said.

On Tuesday, Jiang will meet Emperor Akihito, deliver a speech on the anniversary of diplomatic ties, and meet leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), including Vice President Shin Kanemaru, and opposition parties.

During his stay in Tokyo, Jiang will also call on Kakuei Tanaka, who as prime minister restored diplomatic relations with China in 1972, and meet other former prime ministers and business leaders.

After wrapping up his Tokyo stay Wednesday night, he will visit Osaka, Okayama, and Fukuoka before returning to Beijing on Friday.

Jiang assumed his post in June 1989. He visited Japan in May 1985 as minister of the electronics industry.

### Jiang Zemin Arrives 6 Apr

*OW0604045792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 06 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin arrived at Tokyo's Haneda Airport Monday afternoon on a special flight for a five-day official visit to Japan on the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japanese ties.

Jiang is scheduled to have talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the same afternoon at the Akasaka Guesthouse following a formal welcoming ceremony there.

During his stay in Tokyo, Jiang will also meet Emperor Akihito and other Japanese leaders.

In a Beijing press conference prior to departure, Jiang said through the visit he intends to strengthen relations for the benefit of both peoples and peace and stability in Asia and the world.

Jiang said he hopes to discuss a wide range of Sino-Japanese and international issues with Emperor Akihito and Miyazawa.

### Lesson on Economic Growth Sought

*OW0604081492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, apparently seeking Japanese economic and technological aid, said Monday in Tokyo that China hopes to learn from Japan's economic growth.

"Japan has achieved an economic development attracting attention from the rest of the world and has many experiences China can learn from," Jiang said in a statement issued on arrival Monday afternoon for a five-day official visit.

The party general secretary referred to China's moves to promote economic reform and open the country to the outside world, policies pushed by patriarch Deng Xiaoping and agreed upon at the recently held National People's Congress session.

Jiang expressed hope of exchanging views on a wide range of Sino-Japanese and international issues of mutual concern with Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

That remark is thought to suggest he intends to discuss the formation of a new Asian order in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, observers said.

Jiang expressed pleasure in visiting Japan on the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations. He said deepening friendly Sino-Japanese relations will help both countries and contribute to peace, stability, and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Jiang began a meeting Monday afternoon with Miyazawa at the Akasaka Guesthouse after an official welcoming ceremony there.

He was scheduled to have an audience with the emperor on Tuesday.

### Miyazawa, Jiang Zemin Begin Talks

*OW0604071392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin began talks Monday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Jiang arrived in Japan earlier in the day for a five-day visit as a state guest in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

The visit marks the first to Japan by such a high-level Chinese leader since the cooling of the West's relations with China in the wake of the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

Officials say the primary aim of Miyazawa's two hours of talks with Jiang will be to arrive at a common view on how to promote a stable development of bilateral ties into the 21st century.

While Japanese officials insist Jiang is on a "goodwill visit," in which sensitive issues are typically avoided, Miyazawa is expected to express concerns over the human rights situation in China, its large-scale arms exports, and its recent reassertion of claims to the Senkaku Islands controlled by Japan.

Jiang told Japanese reporters before leaving for Tokyo that he would be reiterating China's invitation for Emperor Akihito to pay a visit in the autumn as the climax of the year's commemorative activities.

But Foreign Ministry sources said Miyazawa is unlikely to go further than a reiteration of Japan's response to previous invitations, namely that the prospects for an imperial visit would be taken into "serious consideration."

The prospects for the visit, which had been anticipated for the autumn, have dimmed because of the reemergence of the territorial issue and the Chinese Government's support for civilian claims for Japanese compensation for damages and injuries inflicted in the past.

Miyazawa may seek Jiang's understanding of the Japanese Government's intentions in aspiring to dispatch the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel overseas to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Following the talks with Miyazawa, officials said Jiang will on Tuesday give a "comprehensive" speech commemorating two decades of diplomatic ties and outlining Chinese foreign and domestic policies.

After an audience and luncheon with Emperor Akihito, Jiang will meet in succession with leaders of five Japanese political parties, as well as with Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's prime minister when bilateral relations were normalized in 1972.

At a reception hosted by private sector figures in the evening, Jiang and Miyazawa are both scheduled to give speeches.

On Wednesday, Jiang will breakfast with several other former prime ministers and pay courtesy calls on the leaders of the two houses of the Diet.

He will then attend a luncheon meeting hosted by the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

After giving a press conference in the afternoon, Jiang will leave Tokyo for western Japan, visiting the Seto-Ohashi bridge between Honshu and Shikoku and inspecting industrial plants in Osaka and Fukuoka. He will return to Beijing from Fukuoka on Friday.

Jiang assumed his current post in June 1989. He visited Japan in May 1985 as head of the Chinese Government's office of the electronics industry.

## Emperor's PRC Invitation Discussed

*OW0604130792 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] In a meeting held between Prime Minister Miyazawa and CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin who arrived in Tokyo this afternoon, Secretary Jiang reiterated the call for the emperor to visit China this fall in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Japan-China normalization of diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Miyazawa replied that Japan wants to continue to give serious review to the issue. Consequently, the matter will be further negotiated between the two countries. Now you will hear a reporter's report from the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin recording of report by reporter Eijiro Ishimura] This is the Foreign Ministry. A meeting between Prime Minister Miyazawa and General Secretary Jiang Zemin ended just a little while ago—past 1800. A dinner party will soon be held at the prime minister's official residence, hosted by Prime Minister Miyazawa. Prime Minister Miyazawa's meeting with General Secretary Jiang Zemin, who is the first top Chinese leader to visit Japan since the Tiananmen incident three years ago, lasted longer than expected—for about two and a half hours from around 1530.

At the beginning of the meeting, General Secretary Jiang Zemin spoke about the status of and the outlook for the Japan-China relations which were normalized 20 years ago, and said the relations are progressing smoothly. Expressing hope for long-term, stable relations, he called for further strengthening of the Japan-China relations.

Regarding the focal topic of the emperor's visit to China, General Secretary Jiang Zemin said he welcomes the emperor's visit to China within this year. He thus renewed his invitation for the emperor to visit China this autumn.

In response to this, Prime Minister Miyazawa did not give a clear-cut reply, and only said that Japan wants to seriously study the issue.

On the issue of China having clearly stated the Senkaku Islands as its territory in a newly legislated law, Prime Minister Miyazawa conveyed Japan's stand on it, and requested that this issue have no adverse effects on the overall Japan-China relations. In reply to this, General Secretary Jiang Zeming recalled that when Mr. Deng Xiaoping visited Japan in 1978, he conveyed China's stand, and said that this stand remains unchanged even now. He thus indicated willingness to shelve the matter in fact.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Miyazawa explained the bill relating to Japan's cooperation in the UN peacekeeping operations, and sought China's understanding on it, noting that the operations are conducted under the United Nations. General Secretary Jiang replied to this—If I am allowed to speak as a friend, I hope you will be cautious about it. He thus asked for caution on Japan's part on this issue.

I have reported on the contents of the meeting. [end recording]

## Dispute, UN SDF Role Discussed

*OW0604153892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin set aside their differences Monday to fete 20 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In over two hours of talks, the two leaders agreed that the recent flareup over disputed islands in the East China Sea should not interfere with friendly relations, and concluded that all problems can be resolved through discussions, according to officials on the two sides.

Jiang is the most senior Chinese official to visit Japan since the 1989 Tiananmen Square military crackdown. He arrived earlier in the day for a five-day tour laden with meetings with business leaders, a factory tour and usual political sessions.

Miyazawa and Jiang illustrated their friendship with an agreement to exchange pandas in the hope of successfully mating Ueno Zoo's 5-year-old female Tong Tong.

However, there was no firm agreement on a possible visit to China by Emperor Akihito this fall that Miyazawa said would enhance ties.

"If the emperor's visit to China can be realized during this 20th anniversary, it would be extremely significant in furthering our two countries' relations and would greatly influence a deepening of the traditional friendship between our peoples," Miyazawa was quoted as telling Jiang.

The visit would be the second overseas tour for the Japanese emperor since he alighted the Chrysanthemum Throne upon the death of his father, the late Emperor Hirohito or Showa, in January 1989.

It would be his first to China, where deep-seated distrust lingers as a result of Japan's World War II aggression.

Emperor Akihito toured Southeast Asia in the fall of 1991.

In the two-and-a-half hours of talks at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, Miyazawa opposed China's claim to the Senkaku Islands and asked Beijing to drop its opposition to full-fledged Japanese participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Japanese officials said.

Miyazawa also urged China to improve its human rights record and indicated Japan's intention to approve a Chinese request for a new energy loan.

Japanese officials said Miyazawa called on Jiang to ensure that the dispute over the Senkaku Islands, known as Diaoyu Islands in China, does not harm relations.

Japan was displeased by the passage of a law in the Chinese National People's Congress last February authorizing the Navy to repel foreign ships found in claimed waters, including those off the contested Senkaku Islands.

The legal move, along with Chinese Government support for civilian claims for massive compensation from Japan for wartime damages and injuries, has dampened enthusiasm in political circles for the prospective imperial visit, Japanese Government sources said.

Officials said Jiang did not mention compensation, though he called for a correct understanding of history by Japan.

Jiang told reporters [words indistinct] Beijing that Chinese authorities would not suppress civilians seeking compensation from Japan. A bill before the Chinese legislature seeking 24 trillion yen (about 180 billion dollars) in compensation was dropped during the session that concluded last week.

Officials quoted Jiang as saying his government's position is unchanged since 1978, when senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said the territorial issue should be shelved for the time being.

Deng, then a vice premier, said in Tokyo that the dispute should be settled by future generations.

Officials said Miyazawa sought Jiang's understanding of the Japanese Government's efforts to pass a bill permitting Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations abroad, especially the operation unfolding in Cambodia.

Miyazawa was quoted as noting that Cambodia's provisional leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen, prime minister of the government installed by Vietnam in 1979, both favor Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

But Jiang, alluding to deep-rooted Chinese concern of a possible revival of Japanese militarism, reiterated his government's stance that sending Japanese military personnel abroad is a "delicate" matter that should be "approached cautiously" by Tokyo.

But officials quoted Jiang as saying the international community is hopeful Japan will play a major role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

Later in a banquet speech, Miyazawa said Sino-Japanese relations should be approached from an international perspective, and should deal with broader issues such as the global environment and arms control.

Officials said Miyazawa remarked in the talks that Japan has a "concern" over the human rights situation in China, which he said should be improved to facilitate China's acceptance as a major player in world affairs.

Jiang was quoted as replying that such concerns constitute "an unacceptable interference in China's internal affairs."

He told Miyazawa that China is opposed to the presentation of human rights as an issue in bilateral relations between states.

Officials said Miyazawa told Jiang that China may expect a positive answer to its request for a 700 billion yen loan to China for energy resource development projects.

The loan is to be extended by the Export-Import Bank of Japan and would be separate from the 810 billion yen in the third package of loans Japan is granting to China from fiscal 1990 to 1995.

Officials said Miyazawa also expressed Japan's support for China's entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

China's bid for GATT membership within the year has met with resistance from the United States and the European Community (EC), which want more evidence of market reforms and the dropping of a number of market barriers.

Officials said Miyazawa called for efforts to ensure a smooth transition of the British colony of Hong Kong to Chinese rule. The capitalist enclave is due to revert to Chinese control in July 1997.

They quoted Jiang as saying China will maintain a "resolute" policy of allowing Hong Kong to continue enjoying prosperity and stability.

Officials said Jiang also urged progress in talks between Japan and North Korea, saying normalization of their relations would contribute to an overall relaxation of tensions in Asia.

### PRC Spokesman Quoted on Talks

*OW0604115892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin agreed Monday that a dispute over a group of islands in the East China Sea should not be allowed to disrupt relations, spokesmen for both sides said.

Miyazawa told Jiang that Tokyo will give "serious consideration" to China's invitation for Emperor Akihito to visit China this year to commemorate the 20th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Japanese officials said.

During their 150-minute talks, Miyazawa told Jiang that he regrets China's reassertion of sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, which China calls the Diaoyu islands, Japanese officials said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wu Jianmin said the two sides explained their positions, but agreed the dispute should not affect relations.

The two sides agreed that there have been many problems in the past, and it is natural that others will emerge in the future, the Chinese spokesman said.

But Wu said all issues can be resolved through negotiations.

Jiang is the most senior Chinese official to visit Japan since China's military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

Jiang arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day for a five-day visit as a government guest in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

Jiang told Miyazawa that China has remained in the same position because senior leader Deng Xiaoping, anxious to calm relations with Tokyo, suggested in 1978 that the highly charged issue simply be left to another generation, Japanese officials said.

Japan maintains it acquired the Senkaku Islands when it annexed the southern chain of the former Kingdom of Ryukyu, now the Okinawa Islands, in 1879. The Senkaku and Okinawa Islands, occupied by the United States after World War II, were returned to Japan in 1972.

China and Taiwan also claim the islands as inherent territories.

The sea surrounding the Senkaku Islands is a rich fishing ground and believed to be a source of offshore oil.

Chinese spokesman Wu quoted Miyazawa as saying that a visit to China by Emperor Akihito would be beneficial for bilateral relations, and would also help boost friendly feelings between the two peoples.

Japanese enthusiasm for the visit has dimmed in recent months due to the reemergence of the territorial issue and the Chinese Government's support for civilian claims for Japanese compensation for damages and injuries inflicted before and during World War II.

Wu quoted Jiang as saying that a correct understanding of history is important for the healthy development of relations.

However, Jiang did not refer to compensation claims, Wu said.

Miyazawa asked China to support the possible dispatch of Self-Defense Force (SDF) personnel overseas to help U.N. peacekeeping forces, Japanese officials said.

Jiang replied that China welcomed Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations overseas.

But the Chinese leader said Japan should be prudent about dispatching SDF personnel in consideration of the feelings of Asian people over Japan's aggression in the region during World War II, according to Japanese officials.

Spokesman Wu quoted Miyazawa as saying that Japan would never again travel along the road to militarism.

Officials from the two sides also quoted Miyazawa as saying Japan will continue to support China's policies of economic reform and an open door to the world.

China would welcome more investment from Japan, which ranks second with 3.9 billion dollars after the United States' 4.9 billion dollars, Wu said.

On regional issues, the two sides voiced support for relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula and pledged support for a nuclear-free peninsula, Wu said.

Jiang called on Japan to make more efforts to normalize its diplomatic relations with North Korea, Japanese officials said.

"The normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea will contribute to a relaxation of tensions in Asia," the Japanese officials quoted Jiang as saying.

Japan and North Korea entered negotiations on establishing diplomatic ties in January 1991.

Jiang touched on Sino-U.S. relations and rejected the U.S. position that the issue of human rights is the key to improving relations between the two countries.

"Imposition of human rights on China is an interference in China's internal affairs," the Japanese officials quoted Jiang as saying.

Wu, asked by a reporter whether Japan's offer to serve as a bridge between China and the United States was discussed, replied that China and the U.S. maintain normal diplomatic relations and are enjoying smooth communication.

Miyazawa expressed appreciation for China's role in helping arrive at a peaceful settlement in Cambodia, and invited China to an international conference on reconstruction of Cambodia being planned here for June, Wu said.

"China and Japan should make efforts to contribute to world peace and development by discussion and cooperation," Wu quoted Jiang as saying.

On the upcoming restoration of China's sovereignty over Hong Kong, Miyazawa expressed his hope that Hong Kong will continue to enjoy prosperity and stability after Britain returns the colony to China in 1997, Japanese officials said.

The officials quoted Jiang as saying China will stick to a "resolute" policy to allow Hong Kong to enjoy prosperity and stability.

## Miyazawa, Jiang Speak at Banquet

*OW0604131692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that he hopes to deepen dialogue with China on global issues such as arms control, disarmament, and environment.

"The era has arrived when Sino-Japanese relations should not stop at bilateral or regional relations, but should be considered in a world context," Miyazawa said in an address at a banquet held in honor of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

Jiang, in separate remarks, focused primarily on bilateral cooperation, which he said possesses "large potential power."

"We are separated only by a narrow strip of water, share similar cultures and traditions, and have complimentary economies and technologies," Jiang said.

"We want to absorb and use as a reference the successes of each country, including Japan. If Chinese economic development is accelerated, Sino-Japanese relations will deepen at a higher level," he told the guests assembled at the prime minister's official residence in central Tokyo.

Miyazawa said that through discussion on global topics, Japan aspires to achieve a bilateral relationship that will "contribute to the world."

The prime minister reiterated support for China's policy of economic and political reforms and openness, and pledged to assist China's efforts for modernization.

Jiang arrived earlier in the day on a five-day visit to commemorate the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations and soon entered two-and-a-half hours of talks with Miyazawa.

## Taiwanese Caught in Biggest Drug Haul This Year

*OW0404130392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 04 Apr 92*

[Text] Kobe, April 4 KYODO—Police said Saturday they have arrested a Taiwanese man and woman caught with seven kilograms of illegal stimulants hidden in fruit cans and bags.

It was the biggest haul of stimulants in Japan this year and the first time ever for stimulants to be found in cans, police said.

Self-styled Taiwanese trader Li Lin Hui, 40, and Chen Mei Yueh, a 33-year-old jobless woman, were caught Friday afternoon at Shin-Osaka Station with 5.5 kg of the drugs hidden in 11-centimeter-tall cans and 1.5 kg of drugs in two bags, police said.

The black market value of the stimulants, which the two were allegedly carrying in a large trunk, is estimated at 1.19 billion yen, police said.

Li, who has visited Japan several times since last year, arrived at Narita Airport March 30 reportedly for sightseeing, and went to Osaka after staying in a Tokyo hotel several days, police said.

Hyogo prefectural police said they seized the two in Osaka after seeking Li since last year, based on information that a Taiwanese smuggling group was illicitly selling a large amount of stimulants in Kobe and Osaka.

The police, saying they suspect an international smuggling group connected with a Japanese underground crime syndicate is behind the two, are continuing their investigation.

## Visiting Official: DPRK To Ratify Nuclear Pact

*OW0504042392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0409 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 (KYODO)—North Korea will ratify the international nuclear safeguards treaty on Thursday, paving the way for independent inspections of its nuclear facilities, a major Japanese daily reported Sunday.

"The ratification will be discussed at the Supreme People's Assembly on April 9 and approved the same day," the YOMIURI SHIMBUN quoted Hwang Chang-yop, a secretary of the (North) Korean Workers' Party, as saying.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Safeguards Accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in January and has said it will allow independent inspections of its nuclear program in early June.

"The inspection will be carried out according to procedures. I think this problem has all been settled," Hwang told the newspaper in Tokyo.

He dismissed Western allegations that his country is developing nuclear weapons, saying, "We have no intention to develop nuclear weapons nor do we have the capability to do so."

Hwang, in charge of ideology in the ruling party, is touring Japan as head of a delegation from the Chuche (self-reliance) Idea Academy.

## U.S. Antitrust Law Extension Draws Protest

*OW0304232992 Tokyo KYODO in English 2319 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Washington, April 3 (KYODO)—The United States, in a new antitrust enforcement policy primarily targeted at Japan, announced Friday that it will apply U.S. antitrust laws to foreign business practices harmful to American exports.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr said the Justice Department will challenge anticompetitive conduct such as boycotts and other activities that hinder the export of American goods or services.

The Justice Department has been barred from taking action on overseas cartels under a 1988 departmental guideline that restricts the application of antitrust laws to cases that have a direct impact on U.S. consumers.

Critics in the U.S. Administration and Congress have maintained that American products such as automobiles and auto parts are kept out of the Japanese market by collusive business practices that discriminate against imports.

Justice officials said the new antitrust enforcement policy stems from a review of antitrust laws aimed at securing a "level playing field" for U.S. goods and services in overseas markets.

"Our review of this issue confirms that Congress did not intend the antitrust laws to be limited to cases based on direct harm to consumers," said James Rill, assistant attorney general in charge of antitrust affairs.

The new antitrust policy immediately drew a sharp protest from Japan that the U.S. is claiming "extraterritoriality" for its antitrust laws.

Enforcing U.S. antitrust laws on overseas business conduct "represents a case of extraterritoriality in the application of U.S. domestic laws, which is prohibited under international law," Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said.

Hanabusa, in a statement released immediately after the U.S. Justice Department made public the new policy, said "it is regrettable" that Washington widened its antitrust enforcement despite repeated objection from the Japanese Government.

Although the Justice Department made a point of denying that the move is aimed at any particular country, the anticompetitive measures listed in the new policy mirror antitrust issues taken up in bilateral trade talks between Japan and the United States.

The new policy, the Justice Department said, will be targeted at "group boycotts, collusive pricing, and other exclusionary activities" which violate U.S. antitrust laws.

The Justice Department said the U.S. would consult foreign governments before taking antitrust actions that "significantly affect their interests."

While threatening to bring action on overseas antitrust practices, the Justice Department indicated that the U.S. is prepared to let law enforcement authorities in the targeted countries bring their own antitrust action.

"In most cases, conduct that harms our exporters also harms foreign consumers and may be actionable under the other country's antitrust laws. If the importing country is better situated to remedy the conduct and is prepared to act, we are prepared to work with them," Rill said.

### Negotiators Voice 'Strong Concern'

*OW0604092392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japanese trade negotiators expressed "strong concern" over a new U.S. policy of extending its antitrust laws to overseas business during recent talks with their U.S. counterparts, a senior government official said Monday.

Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), told a press conference that the new U.S. policy "might possibly threaten the sovereignty of other countries."

He said the Japanese worry was conveyed at a recent working-level meeting in Washington held as a follow-up to the bilateral Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks.

He said Japan will seek a revision of the U.S. decision at multilateral forums such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), though Tokyo has no intention now of discussing it through bilateral channels.

"We want to watch further concrete moves in Washington," he said.

The U.S. Government announced Friday that it will apply U.S. antitrust laws to foreign business practices harmful to American exports as well, in a move widely viewed as primarily targeted at Japan.

Tanahashi also said the chief decision-making body in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks will be reconvened before long.

MITI sources said the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) is likely to be held just before the Easter holiday in mid-April or after the summit talks between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) on April 22.

If it is held in the middle of the month, the sources said, the gathering is intended to give detailed explanations about farm trade talks between Washington and Brussels, which are being closely watched as the key to pushing ahead the long-overdue trade talks.

## Transformers With PCB Found on U.S. Base

*OW0404001192 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 3 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Text] Tokyo—The Defense Facilities Administration Agency's [DFAA] study conducted on 2 April disclosed that PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl), which is banned by the Electricity Enterprises Act [EEA], was mixed with insulating oil in transformers installed at Iwakuni Air Base of the U.S. Forces-Japan [USFJ] in Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi Prefecture. The same agency said that it would "promptly remove the transformers upon consulting with the U.S. side." At the same time, the agency also plans to investigate the remaining 342 transformers on the same base. Some 400 transformers of the same type are used at U.S. bases on Okinawa, including Kadena Air Base. Thus, the DFAA suspects that "it is possible that the PCB is being used" in Okinawa as well. The agency wants to "carry out investigations at other USFJ bases if necessary" after receiving a report from the U.S. side.

The DFAA carried out the investigation when the U.S. military side asked the agency to replace the transformers, saying "PCB-mixed insulating oil is leaking from the transformers supplied by the Japanese side." As a result of the investigation, a minimum 6.2 ppm [parts per million] and a maximum 30.6 ppm of PCB was detected from samples of insulating oil taken from 13 transformers.

PCB mixtures were confirmed for the 13 transformers that the U.S. side pointed out as the ones from which the "leakage of PCB" was reported. They were produced at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation's Nagoya plant between 1981 and 1987 and were delivered to the U.S. Forces. PCB, whose use is banned by the EEA, was mixed with insulating oil used in airtight transformers. The DFAA explained: "There is no effect to humans because they are airtight. But because its use is banned, we would like to remove them as soon as possible upon consultations with the U.S. side."

According to the DFAA, several domestic companies are producing transformer insulating oil; however, the agency said that "it is difficult to pinpoint which company produced the oil."

The DFAA said that although they will remove and dispose of the transformers that were confirmed to contain PCB, "for the time being, there is no way of disposing of the transformers except by keeping them inside a facility to prevent the oil from leaking."

## DFAA Investigates Military Bases

*OW0404100292 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 4 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Text] Tokyo—PCB [polychlorinated biphenyl] was recently detected in insulating oil sealed in transformers procured with Japanese Omoiyari [sympathetic] funds and supplied to Iwakuni Air Base of the U.S. Forces in Japan. Referring to this issue at a regular news conference on 3 April, Kazuo Fujii, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA], said: "The agency is now investigating whether there are more transformers contaminated with PCB besides those in Iwakuni through the Japanese-U.S. Joint Committee's Subcommittee on Environmental Affairs." In this way, Director General Fujii disclosed that the DFAA was presently making investigations at all military bases in Japan, including U.S. bases, about PCB-contaminated transformers. The results will be revealed in the next subcommittee meeting, he said. Fujii added that it was not yet known whether transformers installed at U.S. bases on Okinawa were contaminated with PCB.

Director General Fujii admitted in the news conference that PCB was detected in insulating oil sealed in 13 transformers which the U.S. side asked to be replaced. However, because the DFAA has encountered difficulites in pinning down which company produced the oil, further investigations will be needed, Fujii said. For the time being, the DFAA will continue investigating the cause of the contamination and examine transformers at Iwakuni Air Base. The DFAA intends to dispose of all the PCB-contaminated transformers after the investigation is concluded.

## Tokyo Said Uncommitted on G-7 Aid to Russia

*OW0304232392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2313 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Washington, April 3 (KYODO)—Russia may get little new financial aid directly from Japan under the 24 billion dollar multilateral aid package announced in Bonn and Washington earlier this week, a Japanese diplomatic source said Friday.

The source said Japan is working with the United States and other Group of Seven (G-7) partners on the details of the aid program the outcome of which would affect how much new money Russia and the other former Soviet republics will get from Western donors.

The aid package announced on Wednesday involves 18 billion dollars in multilateral and bilateral financial aid plus 6 billion dollars to bolster the value of the Russian ruble.

At stake, however, is the method of counting contributions by each of the G-7 member countries to an 11 billion dollar bilateral portion of the 18 billion dollar aid program.

The Japanese diplomatic source noted that Japan has already committed 2.6 billion dollars in aid to the former Soviet Union and "We don't know how much of that would be included."

"A considerable share (of the Japanese contribution) might be absorbed" from previous Japanese commitments, the source said.

Outlining the U.S. part of the aid package, U.S. officials said the U.S. will take up a 20 percent share of the 11 billion dollars in combined bilateral contributions from the G-7 countries—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States—but left it vague exactly how much of it would represent a new commitment.

Underlining the vagueness of the western aid program, Japan hurriedly sent a senior Foreign Ministry official for consultations in Washington Thursday, a day after President George Bush unveiled the U.S. portion of the package.

Japanese leaders have said Japan is ready to provide financial assistance to help Russian President Boris Yeltsin carry out his economic reform program but ruled out "large-scale" aid pending the settlement of a territorial dispute with Russia.

"That is the constraint we have," the diplomatic source said.

## Saito Reiterates Stand on Aid

*OW0404054792 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Regarding the Group of Seven [G-7] countries' plan to offer aid programs to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], Deputy Vice Foreign Minister Saito has again stressed that Japan cannot offer direct aid to Russia until the northern territories issue is settled. He made the remarks during a meeting with U.S. Government officials in Washington.

Deputy Vice Minister Saito is currently on a visit to Washington in response to the U.S. and German plan to provide $24 billion in aid to the CIS. He has already met Assistant to the President Brent Scowcroft and other high-ranking U.S. officials to exchange opinions on this issue. During a series of meetings, Saito said that G-7 countries would play a key role in CIS aid, and stressed that Japan will offer its maximum support for the G-7's efforts. On the other hand, he called for the U.S. to understand Japan's stance of not offering full-fledged support for Russia until the northern territories issue is settled.

In reply, the U.S. side explained that the U.S.-German announcement was made in view of the possibility of a rollback of conservatives during the forthcoming parliament session in Russia. The U.S. side said that Western nations were supposed to clarify their stance in order to jointly support Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has to cope with conservatives. The U.S. side also expressed a certain understanding regarding the territorial issue, but called for Japan's positive role in future aid programs organized by the G-7.

In connection with this, a Japanese diplomatic source in Washington has stressed that participation in G-7 aid programs would not mean any drastic change in Japanese policy toward Russia. The source noted that Japan can take part in CIS aid through international organizations, but that does not mean Japan would join every program since it still should maintain its principles concerning the territorial issue. He added that Japan would determine which programs it should take part in on a case-by-case basis, but it would be difficult to draw a definite line on the policy. He thus noted that Japan would have a hard time in coping with Western demands to boost support for Russia.

## 'Lots of Details' Not Settled

*OW0604101792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—A top official of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Monday that current Tokyo stock prices are too low to indicate Japan's real economic strength.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "I don't think the stock market is a good reflection of (Japan's) economic fundamentals."

But he refused to say how high the stock price level should be.

The official said the Liberal Democratic Party's move to draft a new package of measures to help support the falling stock prices is just aimed at hammering out possible short- and long-term steps to attract investors back to the market.

But he said the government should not intervene unwisely in the market.

The MOF official also admitted the Group of Seven major industrial countries had agreed to the framework of the 24 billion dollar rescue plan to help former Soviet republics speed up their economic reforms and weather the current economic crisis before the U.S. and Germany announced the package last week.

But he added there are lots of details that should be worked out before a final agreement.

"The plan should be given a full endorsement not only by the G-7 countries but by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and G-10 countries," he said. "It should also be discussed at these international arenas."

But he said U.S. President George Bush had told the Japanese Government that he would like to announce the package before the final agreement is reached due to "a political judgment."

Germany and the U.S. last Wednesday announced the rescue plan, on which Japanese officials said the G-7 had not reached a final agreement.

The package would include 18 billion dollars of money to help the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) cover the current account deficit and another 6 billion dollars to stablize the ruble against hard currencies, the official said.

He said the G-7 has estimated the CIS will face 12 billion dollars of deficit in the current account, but added the entire money will not be needed immediately.

The other 6 billion dollars of the 18 billion dollar component of the package will be allocated as reserves, he said.

"We have yet to work out all the details of the package, including how much money is really needed and how the assistance should be shouldered by each country," he said.

### Ferry Service Project With Russia Postponed

*OW0304142892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The planned inauguration of a ferry service connecting Japan and Russia has been postponed by Russian officials who say the May start date is too early, Japanese Transport Ministry officials said Friday.

The officials said the delay was agreed upon by representatives from six Japanese and two Russian shipping companies who met at the end of March in Khabarovsk.

Japan had proposed a May opening for the route linking Vladivostok, Niigata, Otaru, Sakhalin, and Vanino, but the Russian companies expressed concern about whether the line would be effectively managed at a time of economic instability in the country.

The two parties agreed to meet again in October, and until then to jointly continue studying the project.

Japan is planning to propose to Russian officials that tramp service between the two countries be established for the time being to meet existing demands.

### Armed Man Attempts To Storm Miyazawa Residence

*OW0604054492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0534 GMT 06 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—A man armed with a knife tried to intrude into the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on Monday morning, police said.

He was arrested by police on suspicion of violating the Firearms and Swords Control Law, they said.

Police said the man, identified as Ryosuke Ogata, 21, appears to be a member of a rightist group.

Ogata, wielding a knife in his left hand, tried to force his way into Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's official residence, shouting "Dissolve Miyazawa's cabinet," police said.

Police said they believe Ogata took the action in protest at Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's five-day official visit to Japan which began Monday.

A welcoming dinner for Jiang will take place at the premier's official residence later in the day.

### Banks Unlikely 'To Meet' BIS Capital Rules

*OW0404072392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 04 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO—Most of Japan's 11 major commercial banks are likely to fail to meet the capital rules of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) by the end of March 1993 due to the sharp slide of Tokyo stock prices, banking industry sources said Saturday.

Only three or four of the city banks, including Sumitomo Bank and Daiwa Bank, are above the minimum 8 percent capital-to-assets ratio, said a source with a major commercial bank, who asked not to be identified.

Sakura Bank, the result of the April 1990 merger between Mitsui Bank and Taiyo Kobe Bank, has slipped to a ratio of around 7.8 percent, the source said.

The 225-issue Nikkei stock average index slipped to a five-year low of 18,286.03 points Thursday, about 6,000 lower than last September, when Japanese banks closed their accounting books for the half-year period.

An executive officer at a major commercial bank, who also asked to remain anonymous, said his bank would be forced to trim assets by cutting back on lending to achieve the BIS standard, with prospects of a further Nikkei decline.

Private-sector economists fear such a reduction in lending would block the flattening economy from recovering in the wake of the 0.75 point official discount rate cut Wednesday by the Bank of Japan to 3.75 percent per annum, the lowest since December 1989.

### EPA Reports on Fall of Oil Products Prices

*OW0304122292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The retail price of gasoline and kerosene fell as a result of Wednesday's abolishment of an extraordinary tax on petroleum, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said in a survey released Friday.

Comparing petroleum product prices at the end of March with those April 1, the survey showed that prices have already collapsed and have dropped by more than the amount of the tax reduction.

With the removal of the extra tax, tax payments on petroleum were cut by 1.02 yen per liter and a revision of fixed tariff rates that took effect Wednesday lowered the payments by another 0.035 yen per liter.

The survey included 180 stores each selling regular gasoline and kerosene in prefectural capitals, the agency said.

Out of the total, 107 stores or about 60 percent, cut Wednesday gasoline prices by an average 1.20 yen per liter to 127.60 yen, it said.

The remaining 40 percent of the stores, which did not reduce prices Wednesday, sold gasoline cheaper at an average 124.90 yen per liter, it said.

For kerosene, about a half of the stores cut prices by an average 1.17 yen per liter to sell 18 liters at 941 yen. The remaining 50 percent of stores sell kerosene at an average 931.40 yen per 18 liter.

### Doubled Science, Technology 1992 Budgets Urged

*OW0304120992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The government should double the fiscal 1992 budget for science and technology research and for college education to about 1 percent of Japan's gross national product (GNP) over the next five years, the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said Friday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Japan's most influential business group, made the proposal while talking with Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), at the LDP's headquarters, Keidanren officials said.

In the fiscal 1992 budget, about 3.8 trillion yen is earmarked for science and technology study.

The officials said Hiraiwa told Kanemaru that science and technology research as well as education is vital for Japan since the country has few natural resources.

He added that college research facilities are currently in poor condition because the budget has been limited under the government's budgetary restraint policy over the past few years.

Kanemaru said the LDP recognizes the importance of these fields, and suggested that Hiraiwa push the Finance Ministry as well, according to the Keidanren officials.

### Women Enroll in Defense Academy for First Time

*OW0404121892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 04 Apr 92*

[Text] Yokosuka, Kanagawa Pref., April 4 KYODO—The National Defense Academy on Saturday admitted female students for the first time in its history.

This year, the academy amitted a total of 470 students, comprising 431 men and 39 women who will study to become top-brass Self-Defense Forces personnel.

The Defense Academy, in a bid to renew its recently sagging popularity, has revised entrance requirements including one that has prevented women to enter [passage as received] the institution since it opened in 1953.

The number of students entering the academy has fallen below the 500-person capacity for several years.

Some 11,700 people, 3,700 more than the previous year, took entrance exams conducted in September and November of 1991, academy officials said.

A total of 72 women passed the entrance exams, they said.

To accommodate the female students, the academy built extra facilities including separate bathrooms and toilets, but dormitories are not separated, the officials said.

## North Korea

### WPK Official: Kim Chong-il 'De Facto' Leader

*OW0404121192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 04 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO—North Korean President Kim Il-song is not likely to officially transfer power to his son Kim Chong-il soon, a senior ruling party official indicated Saturday.

But in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Tokyo, Hwang Chang-yop, a secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], echoed a recent official pronouncement that the younger Kim runs the party in fact, if not in name.

"It will not make any sense to confer the title (of party general secretary) to the younger Kim because he is already in full control of overall party business," Hwang said.

Kim Chong-il, the designated heir to his father, North Korea's only leader since the Korean peninsula was divided after World War II, has recently received some top government and party posts.

Some observers have speculated that Kim Chong-il's hereditary succession of official power would culminate April 15 on Kim Il-song's 80th birthday.

North Korea's tightly controlled press recently cited a congratulatory birthday message to the elder Kim in which his son was for the first time referred to as "our head of the party, the state, and the army."

Hwang said that wording meant Kim Chong-il is the "de facto paramount leader" of North Korea.

He added, "Kim Il-song and his son are one in body and mind."

Kim Chong-il was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the 19th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the governing party in December.

## ROK's 'Flunkyist' Position on Inspection Berated

*SK0604111292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[NODONG SINMUN 3 April commentary: "Unchanging Flunkyist and Traitorous Nature"]

[Text] According to reports, on 30 March South Korea's current ruler met former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita in Seoul and noisily babbled about the nuclear inspection of our country. He begged the Japanese Government, through Takeshita, to continue pressuring the North to receive the nuclear inspection and not to be hasty in the talks between the DPRK and Japan to establish diplomatic ties, considering the acceptance of the nuclear inspection to be a precondition for establishing diplomatic ties.

Needless to say, this can be done only by those flunky traitors who attach greater significance to collusions with outside forces than unity among fellow countrymen and who are used to selling the nation's dignity and interests to outside forces.

South Korea's current ruler has no justification for saying this or that about our nuclear inspection and is not in a position to do so in the first place.

All of the problems concerning nuclear inspection are now smoothly being solved thanks to cooperation between the International Atomic Energy Agency and us. In addition, the Joint Nuclear Control Committee was formed between the North and South, and this committee has begun its work.

The South Korean authorities should sincerely do what they can to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. If he [South Korean President No Tae-u] truly wanted to talk about the nuclear issue, he should have called on Takeshita to account for Japan's growing nuclear threat and talked about the danger of the U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in the secret underground depots in South Korea and the need to remove them. The South Korean authorities have many other issues that they should have asked Japan to resolve, including Japan's compensation for the comfort girls. However, he did not speak even a word about them; rather, he babbled about our nonexistent nuclear threat. This is preposterous.

Their objective is clear. This is a mean plot by the South Korean authorities to justify their insidious acts, such as refusing to implement the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration under the pretext of the nuclear inspection issue.

This is also a criminal attempt to leave South Korea as a U.S. nuclear base and destroy the fellow countrymen with nuclear weapons in illicit collusion with outside forces.

In North-South negotiations to implement the agreement and the joint declaration, the South Korean authorities raise the issue of the nuclear inspection of our country, find fault with us, and intentionally hinder progress in the dialogue.

Regarding the nuclear inspection, they insist on a perfunctory simultaneous inspection. Still, they desperately oppose full-scale inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea.

If they really intend to remove the nuclear threat and to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, they have no reason to oppose opening the U.S. bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea to a full-scale inspection.

The South Korean ruler's remarks are a problem: While expressing his intention to avoid fulfilling the agreement because of the nuclear inspection issue, he begged that Japan should not move toward normalizing relations between the DPRK and Japan.

Although the historic Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South was adopted and effectuated, the current South Korean rulers, in collusion with outside forces, have not abandoned their chronic vicious habit of harming their fellow countrymen.

The South Korean authorities are persistently sticking to the anachronistic foreign policy of depending on outside forces. Therefore, they cannot escape denunciation at home and abroad.

## Commentary Questions South's 'Ulterior Motive'

*SK0404033092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "What Is Their Ulterior Motive in Delaying the Implementation of Nonaggression?"]

[Text] The second meeting of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held on 31 March on the South side's area of Panmunjom. As with other subcommittee meetings, this meeting also ended without success because of the South side's unwarranted stand and attitude.

The South side did not present a draft of the supplementary agreement on that day, just like the first meeting, and deliberately created complexities and difficulties in discussing problems. Talking about a fundamental guideline and the like, the South side said that it never agreed to make effective the supplementary agreement in the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks and that the supplementary agreement should be prepared depending upon the results of the negotiations. It went so far as to make the absurd statement that the

North-South Joint Military Committee is a consultative body and a promotional organization. It also said that priority should be given to discussing the formation and operation of the Joint Military Committee and installation of a hotline, followed by the supplementary agreement for the implementation of nonaggression. Then they presented a so-called subject for discussion, insisting that the interpretation of terminology be discussed first.

This casts a dark shadow on the future of the Military Subcommittee and the seventh round of North-South high-level talks. It is also a tactic for delaying reunification and peace, running counter to the desire of 70 million fellow countrymen and revealing the intention to inspire North-South confrontation.

As is clear to everyone, to guarantee durable peace on the Korean peninsula it is imperative to write a supplementary agreement first and to see that the agreement is effectuated at the seventh round of North-South high-level talks. In today's grave situation, with the North and the South maintaining a state of confrontation and aiming rifles and guns at each other, neither political reconciliation nor cooperation and exchange can be realized. If war breaks out the damage will be exorbitant and reunification will be meaningless.

This is precisely why we have made the peace problem a priority, that is, the problem of eliminating the military confrontation. As Chapter 2 of the North-South Basic Agreement on Nonaggression stipulates, neither side shall use arms against the other nor invade the other side with force.

Therefore, writing the supplementary agreement for the implementation of nonaggression should be discussed and solved first, before other problems, in order to form the Joint North-South Military Committee. The Joint North-South Military Committee should be organized according to the work to be done henceforth. This is precisely what the supplementary agreement would do.

Nevertheless, the South side persisted in discussing other problems first, shelving the discussion on the supplementary agreement. This is an insult and challenge to the North-South agreement and the agreement on the formation and operation of the joint North-South committee.

Also, the South side's insistence on discussing the installation of a hotline is illogical. As long as the present state of confrontation between the North and the South is left as it is, installing a hotline is insignificant. A hotline is necessary only for achieving a durable peace.

The South side attended the second meeting of the Military Subcommittee empty-handed again, just like the first meeting, and tried to delay the implementation of nonaggression, deliberately creating obstacles. We must interpret this as an intention to aggravate tensions behind the curtain of dialaogue and accelerate preparations for a northward invasion.

In reality, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers are wantonly conducting espionage and military provocations against the northern half of the republic and conducting a war exercise for a northward invasion every day in South Korea.

More than 210 instances of U.S. aerial espionage against the northern half of the republic by mobilizing various types of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes occurred in March, making the total for this year 670. In addition, on 27 March the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conducted various types of air and sea war exercises against the northern half of the republic, mobilizing more than 720 airplanes and 350 combat ships.

The South Korean authorities are adhering to the double-dealing tactic of giving the impression that they are responding to dialogue on the one hand and accelerating war preparations for a northward invasion on the other hand. However, this cannot be tolerated. Dialogue and maneuvers for war are incompatible.

If the South Korean authorities do not want to repeat the miserable tragedy of the previous dictators who ran wild with war maneuvers while loudly babbling about confrontation with dialogue, they should embark on the road for national reunification—that is, for the implementation of the agreement—at the earliest possible date. Doing so will be good for them.

## Kim Il-song Welcomes Laos' Kaysone Phomvihan

*SK0404154992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 4 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today welcomed Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on an official goodwill visit to our country.

Flags of the DPRK and Laos were fluttering on the flagpoles.

President Kim Il-song warmly shook hands with President Kaysone Phomvihan and hugged him.

A welcome function for the Lao president took place.

The national anthems of Laos and Korea were played.

President Kaysone Phomvihan, conducted by President Kim Il-song, reviewed a guard of honour of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

Present at the function were Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, chief of the cabinet of the Central Committee of the party and the cabinet of the Council of Ministers; Soulivong Phasitthidet, vice-chairman of the

Commission for the External Relations of the Central Committee of the party and vice-foreign minister; Phongsavat Boupha, Lao ambassador e.p. to Korea; and the suite members.

Present there were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice- president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Yi Chol-pong, minister of city management and chairman of the Korea-Laos Friendship Association; Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic economic affairs; Kim Yang-kon, vice- director of a department of the C.C. the WPK; Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs; and Chang Yong-chun, Korean ambassador e.p. to Laos.

## Leaders Hold Talks

*SK0504100292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 5 (KCNA)—Talks between Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, were held here today.

Present at the talks on our side were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs; Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK; and Chang Yong-chun, Korean ambassador e.p. to Laos.

Present there on the opposite side were Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, chief of the cabinet of the Central Committee of the party and the cabinet of the Council of Ministers; Soulivong Phasitthidet, vice-chairman of the Commission for the External Relations of the Central Committee of the party and vice-foreign minister; Phongsavat Boupha, Lao ambassador e.p. to Korea; and the suite members.

The talks proceeded in a comradely, sincere and friendly atmosphere.

## Wage Increase Given in Apr; State Benefits Noted

*SK0304233592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Korea raised the wages of the workers and office employees by 43.4 percent on an average at a bound from March, and it will supply new clothes to the students and school children across the country in April.

The state bears a big share of the price of the clothes supplied in complete suite to the students and school children who account for over one quarter of the population.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"It is the supreme principle of our party's activities to steadily improve the material and cultural well-being of the people."

Under the popular policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Governmemt which regard the promotion of the well-being of the people as the supreme principle of their activities, the Korean people are enjoying a happy life with nothing more to desire, not worrying about food, clothing and house. This policy is executed in the form of additional benefits such as free education, free medical assistance, paid leave, rest at holiday homes and sanatoria, old-age pension and social security at the expense of the state and society. Particularly large are the benefits from the free compulsory education system.

The state brought into force the universal compulsory 11 year education and pays scholarships to students of universities, colleges and training courses at all levels. The state pays more than 15,800 won in upbringing and educational fees for one child from his nursery and kindergarten days to his graduation from a university.

The working people are granted much benefits through the popular public health policy. Under the universal free medical care system enforced in January 1953 during the fatherland liberation war, the Korean people do not know the very words of medical examination, diagnosis and prescription fees. The state fully bears the colossal spendings for the prevention and treatment of diseases. In case of medical treatment in hospitals and sanatoria, the state provides the patients with all conditions for free medical treatment and living and pays even their living expenses.

In case a patient receives medical treatment in a hospital for a week and at a sanatorium for a month, the medical expenses paid by the state for him are, on an average, equal to one year's income of an ordinary worker.

Our country where main stress is put on prophylactic medicine renders a systematic medical service to the healthy people in the form of regular medical check-up and preventive vaccination. The yearly benefits of medical treatment to each head of the population are equal to two months' wage of an ordinary worker.

Besides, the state buys grain from the farmers at a high price and supplies it to the workers and office employees at a cheap price less than one tenth of it and let them use houses virtually free of charge. Thus the state grants them large benefits through various channels.

Today the additional benefits granted to the workers and office employees is larger than the reward for their labor including the wages.

The additional benefits of the state and society are equally paid to all the working people, regardless of age, sex, occupation and religious belief and the investment in this field increases every year.

A large fund allocated to the improvement of the material life of the working people through appropriations, for social and cultural measures grew 6.5 percent in 1990 above 1989 and 4 percent last year above 1990.

This is a shining fruit of the popular policy which is consistently growing in scope and developing under the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

### UNDP Fisheries Modernization Project Completed

*SK0504105392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 5 (KCNA)—An object for the modernization of fishery researches under the assistance programme between the DPRK Government and the UNDP [UN Development Program] has been completed and commissioned.

With its commissioning, the Aquatic Products Processing Institute and the Tonghae Fisheries Institute have been modernized to contribute to improving the quality of processed fish and the people's living standard.

Present at the commissioning ceremony Saturday were Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Yi Song-nok and other officials concerned.

Resident representative Henning Karcher and officials of the liaison office of the UNDP here were also present.

## South Korea

### U.S. Trade Representative Report Criticized

*SK0404024792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Apr 92 p 10*

[Text] The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is drawing fire from Korea for publishing what Seoul claims to be a misleading and inaccurate report on Korea's alleged trade barriers and analysts here believe the report will strain the binational relationship.

Government officials said Seoul will file a strong protest with the USTR over the report and seek remedial action out of fear that it may mislead the U.S. public, politicians and government officials.

Central bankers were particularly surprised to find erroneous contents in the USTR report on Korea's financial barriers.

"We must question the ability of USTR officials in collecting data and facts," an angry central banker said. The distorted report discredited the image of USTR chief Carla Hills and the international reputation of the Bush administration, he noted.

He and many other experts here noted that they found at least six factual errors in the U.S. report on Korea's financial barriers.

First of all, the USTR alleged that the Finance Ministry has "stalled" issuing trust business licenses for foreign banks. But Seoul officials said that Korea has issued licenses to almost all applicants. It said it can not issue a license to banks not submitting applications.

The USTR contended that "Korea reduced foreign bank swap limits by 10 percent in 1987, 1988 and 1989 without providing adequate alternative funding sources." However, central bankers said it allowed foreign banks to increase their issuance of certificates of deposit (CDs) three times over the past year to provide alternative won funding sources for them.

In addition, Korea permitted foreign banks to borrow loans from the interbank call market. Korea also "suspended" trimming foreign bank swap limits from 1990. But the USTR report does not mention such facts, critics said.

The USTR gives the impression that Korea is dragging its feet in allowing foreign banks to hike capital. But central bankers said foreign banks, except for rule-breaking banks, are "free" to increase capital as much as possible. Twice since last year, more than 10 foreign banks hiked capital.

The American report contends that Korea has discriminated against foreign banks in issuing additional branch licenses. But central bakers and government officials said foreign banks were given relative freedom in opening new branches from last year.

A showcase example is Citibank, they said. It has nine branches and this year was given authorization to open an additional five branches. But Citi officials said the American bank plans to open only three branches this year.

The USTR argued that "representative offices of foreign securities firms may not engage in the domestic securities-related business in Korean directly, including direct investment in the stock market."

But analysts here said like in any country, a representative office is restricted from conducting business. Critics questioned the "common sense" of USTR officials. They noted the USTR report on Korea's financial barriers must have been written by those who have little knowledge of the nuts and bolts of finance. If the U.S. Treasury Department officials had written the report, it might not have made such grave mistakes, they said.

Although Korea has issued licenses to four securities firms for branch opening, the USTR report did not mention anything about that.

## Accord Not Reached in Trade Talks With Japan

*SK0304121892 Seoul YONHAP in English*
*1115 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan held talks on redressing the huge trade imbalance in Japan's favor in Seoul Thursday and Friday, but failed to strike accords on key issues. The two sides agreed to meet again on June 10-11 in Tokyo.

South Korea called for the establishment of a foundation for industrial, scientific and technological cooperation, but Japan countered with the position that such a body could not be promoted on the government-level but on the private level.

Korea said it would meet Japan's demands that Japanese trading companies be allowed to engage in export and import businesses and that Japanese firms be given favors in moving into newly-built industrial complexes if Japan accepted the call for the establishment of the foundation.

The two sides agreed to set up an environmental agreement for technical cooperation in the sector and to pursue exchange and cooperation between similar industries through sisterhood relations or consultative bodies.

They also agreed to form an economic forum of industrialists and traders in May at the earliest.

## Government Postpones Establishing Ties With PRC

*SK0504092892 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO*
*in Korean 5 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] It was learned on 4 April that the ROK Government decided to postpone the establishment of ROK-Chinese diplomatic relations until next year.

The ROK Government had been planning to establish diplomatic relations with China after holding ROK-Chinese summit talks sometime during the first half of this year, following a precedent set in establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. However, since China's position is that North-South summit talks must be held first, it seems that the ROK-Chinese summit talks will be possible sometime next year. As a result of actively promoting the northern diplomacy, the government not only established diplomatic relations with Russia and all East European countries except for Albania but also joined the United Nations. Because establishing diplomatic relations with China is linked with the North-South issue, the government decided not to make haste in this matter. Therefore, it seems that the task to establish diplomatic relations with China will be transferred to the next government.

China's position is that to establish diplomatic relations with the ROK, conditions such as progress in North-South relations and the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan must be provided first. Working-level officials analyze that as long as North Korea delays its nuclear inspection, the ROK's one-sided approach to China will be of no help. Furthermore, as a precondition to improve relations with North Korea, the United States and Japan are strongly demanding that it accept nuclear inspection. Therefore, it seems that as long as North Korea's nuclear inspection issue is not resolved, postponement of the establishment of diplomatic relations in cross recognition among neighboring countries will be inevitable.

On 4 April, a government official said: "We have already exchanged and established trade missions with China and have held negotiations on economic agreements, resulting in concluding a trade agreement. Therefore, in practical terms, there is really no hurry to establish diplomatic relations. If we continue to persist in establishing diplomatic relations with some countries with which we lack diplomatic relations, we will be losing much and and will have to establish diplomatic relations on the assumption of making compromises in other fields. Therefore, we decided for the time being to concentrate on promoting practical cooperative relations, such as private economic cooperation." In this connection, the government decided to postpone the establishment of diplomatic relations with China for next year, although this was originally planned for this year. However, it decided to continue holding close consultations with the Chinese side to strengthen practical cooperative relations.

It was also learned that negotiations to normalize relations with Vietnam and Cambodia have been sufficient, the government plans to normalize relations with these countries sometime during the early part of this year, when the issue of missing U.S. soldiers has been resolved.

## Republic of Georgia Recognized

*SK0504230192 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network*
*in Korean 2200 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] The ROK Foreign Ministry has announced that the ROK Government recognizes the Republic of Georgia of the former Soviet Union as an independent state effective today. The Foreign Ministry also said that the government hopes that the recognition of the Republic of Georgia as a state will further friendly relations between the ROK and Georgia.

## Possible North Korean Power Shift Analyzed

*SK0504131792 Seoul TONG-A ILBO*
*in Korean 5 Apr 92 p 1*

[By correspondent Yi Nak-yon from Tokyo]

[Text] North Korea, it was learned, is likely to shift the center of power from the Workers Party of Korea to the State Administration Council (Cabinet) on the occasions of President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday on 15 April and the

60th anniversary of the founding of the "People's Revolutionary Army" (founded mainly with the anti-Japanese units formed during the Japanese rule) on 25 April.

A high-ranking source in Tokyo well versed in North Korean affairs said that he had heard that North Korea, which has enforced a policy of giving the party the upper hand in the state's power structure, is going to give the State Administration Council the upper hand through a drastic transfer of power. He noted that such a move may have something to do with Secretary Kim Chong-il's succession of power to President Kim Il-song.

This source also said that Secretary Kim Chong-il, who took office as the Supreme Commander of the People's Army at the end of last year, is expected to deliver "an important speech" at the ceremony to be held to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the "People's Revolutionary Army" on 25 April and that this speech may turn out to be one that is connected with the transfer of power and the strengthening of the State Administration Council.

This source predicted that if and when the State Administration Council is strengthened and Secretary Kim Chong-il is given predominance over the State Administration Council in this way by taking office other than the Armed Forces supreme commander, it will give the technocrats greater say in North Korea's power structure and will expedite North Korea's opening, mainly in the economic area.

North Korea's constitution stipulates that the president of the state holds the title of supreme commander of the People's Army. However, Secretary Kim Chong-il took the office of supreme commander at the end of last year, while Kim Il-song still holds the office of president of the state, thereby showing an alienation between what the constitution stipulates and what actually happened.

However, a passage in a congratulatory message adopted at the "National Seminar on the Chuche Idea" held this 1 April in Pyongyang to mark President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday saying "with Secretary Kim Chong-il upheld at the head of the party and state," led observers to speculate that the power succession is at hand.

Concerning this, another source in Tokyo said that it is possible that President Kim Il-song will have his son, Kim Chong-il, take over one of his two offices, general secretary of the party or president, on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Army on 25 April, not on his birthday. He added that he thinks it is more likely that Kim Il-song will transfer his presidency to his son instead of the office of the party general secretary, given the movement to strengthen the State Administration Council.

This source said that in case Kim Chong-il succeeds to the office of the president when the State Administration Council is being strengthened, it means that the power succession in North Korea will come to a virtual end. He also said that President Kim is expected to continue playing the role of compensating for Kim Chong-il's lack of charisma while enjoying the role of a supreme leader, regardless of his title, like China's Deng Xiaoping.

## Daewoo Industrial Project Trip to North Approved

*SK0504015492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0130 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government plans to to approve Daewoo Group officials' North Korean visit this month to discuss inter-Korean industrial project, government sources said Sunday.

The South-North Korean Exchange Promotion Committee will meet around mid-April to approve Daewoo as the South Korean partner in the project and allow a working-level negotiation team to visit North Korea to discuss details, they said.

Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung went to Pyongyang last January on formal invitation from North Korea's External Economic Commission Chairman Kim Tal-hyon.

They agreed to build an industrial complex in Nampo, North Korea, for joint production of shirts, blouses, shoes and other light industry products.

North Korea is to provide land and manpower while South Korea is in charge of facility construction and investment.

Daewoo applied for permission to send a negotiation team to Pyongyang in February but the government postponed its decision, citing lack of progress in inter-Korean nuclear talks.

"The nuclear problem is not completely solved, but the two sides did establish the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and talks are under way on inspection procedures," a government official said.

"There are positive signs such as North Korea indicating it will ratify the nuclear safeguards accord at its Supreme People's Assembly session opening April 8," he said.

"The government policy is to pursue nuclear negotiations and inter-Korean exchanges simultaneously and accordingly decided to approve Daewoo's North Korean visit," he said.

But Daewoo will have to get separate government permission on the actual business plan for the project, the official pointed out .

"There must be substantial progress in other inter-Korean issues such as reunion of separated families for Daewoo's plans to proceed smoothly," he said.

## North Makes Investment Proposals to South Firms

*SK0404063792 Seoul YONHAP in English*
*0545 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP)—North Korea has made 20 investment and exchange proposals to South Korean enterprises so far this year, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) said Saturday.

The offers were usually made through companies in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Switzerland, Sweden and Germany, all of which had traded with North Korea.

Pyongyang is seeking access to South Korean businesses to tap the possibility of deals in the investment and trade sectors using personnel from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chochongnyon), Kotra said.

North Korean proposals, including barter trade, never mention the problems of investment guarantee and the permanent residence of South Koreans in North Korea.

Kotra warns that it is dangerous to invest in North Korea as the nuclear issue has yet to be solved and GATT still has to classify trade between South and North Korea.

"As a result, South Korea's economic cooperation might as well be limited and proceed step by step. Investment in the first stage will not go beyond textiles, garments, processing of agricultural products and production of electronic parts," a Kotra spokesman said.

North Korea has induced 100-odd foreign investments since it first introduced a joint venture law in 1984, and more than 80 percent (87) were by the pro-Pyongyang Chochongnyon.

## Youth Exchange Agreement Signed With Hungary

*SK0604073092 Seoul YONHAP in English*
*0602 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Hungary signed an agreement on youth exchanges Monday, the Sports and Youth Ministry said.

Balazs Bardos, state secretary for youth affairs in the Hungarian prime minister's office, and Korean Vice Sports and Youth Minister Kim Yong-kyun signed the agreement, a ministry spokesman said.

Bardos also met with Sports and Youth Minister Yi Chin-sam to talk about expansion of youth exchanges and exchange information on youth policies in the two countries.

The exchange pact is the first of its kind for Korea and is expected to expedite Korea-Hungary youth exchanges as well as accelerate the conclusion of similar accords with other East European countries, the official said.

## Kim Yong-sam Claims No Tae-u Backs Candidacy

*SK0404021692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES*
*in English 4 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] Ruling party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam indicated yesterday that he enjoys the support of President No Tae-u in his bid for nomination as a presidential candidate.

The No. 2 man in the ruling camp hierarchy strongly suggested No's backing in the May 19 nomination convention while fielding a flurry of questions by journalists at a meeting of the Korean Newspaper Editor's Association.

Kim, who got a head start on the other potential contenders by declaring his candidacy in the nomination race of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] last Saturday, said as a guest speaker at the breakfast meeting at the Korea Press Center:

"President No and I have regularly discussed state and party affairs in weekly meetings and have developed mutual trust.

"You should take note of what I say. The two of us will act as one to make the nomination convention an occasion of festivity.... and to keep the DLP in power."

Kim, 64, said, "How can President No be indifferent to the picking of the presidential candidate? But he does not want to remain as the boss of the (largest) Minjong faction. He is the president of the party, encompassing all factions."

Kim denied the reports that No is keeping his distance from him, the leader of the second largest Minju faction, and that No will maintain neutrality in the upcoming race. He said, "President No has never used a word like neutrality (in talks with me)."

Despite Kim's indication that he has won the support of No, DLP co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, Reps. Yi Chong-chan and Yi Han-tong are moving to unite anti-Kim elements in the party supposedly confident of No's favor or neutrality after they met the President earlier this week.

Kim Yong-sam tried to boost his stature over the challenges from possible contenders by saying, "The most important requirement for the presidential candidate is the ability to win the (December) presidential election."

He said emphatically, "I am convinced of triumph in the presidential elections." He noted that he came to get the confidence while on the campaign trail for the March 24 general elections which took him to some 200 districts across the nation.

He added, "You should chew over President No's campaign pledge to be the last military man to become President and the one to firm up civilian rule. He has said more than once that he does not want his relatives to seek power."

The executive chairman was apparently referring to ret. Lieut. Gen. Kim Pok-tong and Pak Chol-on, both relatives of No.

Asked if he will accept whatever happens at the nomination contest, executive chairman Kim replied, "I've never thought of defeat."

Turning to the question of regional antagonism, he said, "I think the most important measure against regionalism is to be fair in personnel administration. If I take power, I will be very bold in that direction."

In response to the question about his own qualifications to be president, Kim said that "Knowledge is not all that is important. More important is experience and the ability to tap able figures for the right positions."

Kim remained vague about his own economic policies. "I have former deputy premier economic planning minister Kim Man-che and former finance minister Kang Kyong-sik as economic advisors. I also meet economic scholars regularly. But I have yet to map out any economic policies in detail."

## No Serving in 'Fair Overseer' Role

*SK0604102392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday he would serve as a "fair overseer" of the contest for the presidential nomination in his party.

"I will try to practice the principle of fair competition by warning those who violate the rules and by coordinating the candidates for self-control when they engage in excessive competition," No told media executives and senior journalists over lunch at Chongwadae.

He expressed his regrets for the meddling in the general elections of agents from the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] and said an investigation would be carried out to clear the public's suspicions.

The Seoul District prosecution has arrested four NSP officers who circulated propaganda smearing opposition candidates.

## Anti-Kim Yong-sam Group Seeks Kim Chong-pil Aid

*SK0504003292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Apr 92 p 2*

[By staff reporter Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] Factions opposing Kim Yong-sam in the ruling party are having a tough time finding a candidate to stand against Kim, the executive chairman who made clear that he would become a candidate for presidential nomination in May.

As things stand now, the race seems to boil down to two men—Pak Tae-chun, a co-chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], and Yi Chong-chan, a reform-minded fourth-term lawmaker.

Most analysts believe that if the anti-Kim factions manage to field a single candidate, it would pose a formidable challenge to Kim, who leads the DLP's second largest faction.

Pak, Yi and four other leading DLP lawmakers opposed to Kim huddled at a Seoul hotel Thursday and agreed to produce a unified candidate to challenge Kim by April 15.

They met again yesterday and decided to seek an alliance with another DLP Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil and his followers.

Also attending yesterday meeting was Yang Chang-sik who was recently elected to the National Assembly in Namwon, North Cholla Province.

Both Pak and Yi have been actively soliciting Kim Chong-pil, who heads the third largest faction in the party.

But Kim is still noncommittal. He served as prime minister under the late President Pak Chong-hui.

Kim once advocated what he called "generational changes in politics," which may have encouraged Yi, 56, but irritated two old-time politicoes: Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

Kim Chong-pil has been on the fence to find who would have an upper hand in the nomination race.

Meanwhile, Pak and Yi had their first one-on-one meeting at Pak's home Friday but apparently failed to reconcile their differences, their aides said. The two, belonging to the party's largest faction (Minjong), have maintained amicable relations.

Pak, 64, who has been the leader of the mainstream faction on behalf of President No Tae-u, seems to be thinking that he has a better chance of defeating Kim Yong-sam in the May party convention.

A close confidant of Pak insisted that Pak's followers outweigh those who support Yi.

A native of Yangsan in North Kyongsang Province, baldheaded Pak is renowned for building Pohang Iron and Steel Co. [POSCO] into one of the world's largest steel mills.

According to his aides, Pak will resign as POSCO chairman when he formally announces his candidacy for presidential nomination.

Yi says he has to clinch the nomination. He is confident that he could beat Kim Yong-sam.

Yi contends that he could muster support from deputies in all but Pusan and surrounding South Kyongsang Province, Kim's power base, as Yi is from the country's "central region," his aides asserted.

The aides contended that the results of last month's parliamentary elections show that voters wanted the retirement of the older generation of politicians like Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung from politics.

Yi leads the "New Politics Group" which bands together several reform-minded senior DLP legislators. The group has advocated "clean politics," courting the support of people disillusioned with the "two Kims"—Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

Kim Yong-sam, who finished second after President No in the 1987 presidential election, directed the campaign for the March parliamentary elections in which his party won 149 seats, one seat shy of a majority in 299-member National Assembly.

Although the anti-Kim Yong-sam factions last week vowed to pick a unified candidate by April 15, it is not certain at the moment they will meet the deadline since Pak and Yi would not easily give up their presidential ambitions.

Besides Kim Chong-pil, Yi and Pak have been trying hard to win support from Pak Chol-on and Kim Pok-tong, both relatives of President No. Kum Chin-ho, the president's brother-in-law, has already indicated that he would back Kim Yong-sam.

Kim Pok-tong, who was elected to the National Assembly on the ruling party ticket in the March 24 elections, is a core member of the so-called "T.K." group made up of natives of Taegu and graduates of Kyongbuk High School in Taegu, the nation's third largest city. Members of the clan have dominated key positions in the government, military and other areas.

Pak Chol-on, former sports minister and confidant of President No, is yet to reveal his intention. Previously, he appeared to have been supportive of the reform-minded lawmaker, Yi.

Both Pak Tae-chun and Yi Chong-chan reportedly have called on No to win No's support which may be crucial in winning the coveted presidential nomination.

Yi told reporters the President promised to remain "neutral" in choosing the nominee, while Pak kept mum on the outcome of his brief meeting with the President.

### Kim Yong-sam's 'Contradiction' Assailed

*SK0604022692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Apr 92 p 2*

[Article by reporter Kim Kyo-chun from the "Reporter's Memobook" column: "Kim Yong-sam's Contradiction"]

[Text] Executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Kim Yong-sam expressed his generally optimistic views on the results of the nominating convention in a speech delivered at a "Friday breakfast meeting" on 3 April hosted by members of the Korean Newspaper Editors' Association. Even so, he made his somewhat uneasy feelings felt and revealed his "contradictory feelings". First of all, he said: Free competition for the nomination of a presidential candidate is an idea I introduced and I want a fair and graceful competition."

He also said: "How can President No Tae-u, the president of the party, be indifferent to the national convention? He has never used a word like neutrality."

Taken together, his remarks mean that he will try to remain above the fray, but President No has no choice but to help him for many reasons, including the need to have politically like-minded people succeed him. His remarks as such may reflect what he discussed with President No at talks held at Chongwadae.

He also said that "deputies will not turn their backs on the wishes of the people" and "I have always been strong at overcoming machinations." In this way, not only has he revealed his concern about the fact that he is only the leader of a small faction and that the majority of the deputies are aligned with the former ruling party, but he also did not rule out the possibility that some inside the party are hatching "a plot for his removal."

Commenting on this, one of his close associates explained: The president's words may be ear-pleasing, but the anti-YS [Kim Yong-sam] movement may be the opposite.

Hwang Nak-chu, chairman of the DLP Central Committee, who is one of Minju [now-defunct Reunification Democracy Party] faction members, insisted that a fair contest for the nomination is impossible from the beginning, arguing "out of over 600 deputies to the national convention picked by the party's Central Committee, only 26 can be counted as Minju faction."

Under these circumstances, it is understandable that Executive Chairman Kim says: "I have never thought of a defeat as I am convinced that I will be victorious when the votes are counted," when asked whether he will accept the results of the contest at the DLP national convention.

What he should have said was "I will accept the results." Only then would his emphatic remark on "his relations with the president build confidence" and his "call for a free contest for the nomination of presidential candidate" sound reasonable. What counts most in this regard is that his refusal to accept the results of the contest will not only be contradictory, but this is an attitude that a leader of a democratic party should avoid adopting under any circumstances.

This is because his words can be interpreted as meaning that he will desert the DLP if he fails to win his nomination. There can be different opinions as to who are responsible for Executive Chairman Kim's act of burning his bridges behind him. But it must also be pointed out that his attitude as such has been the cause of the party's internal feuds. I believe that Executive

Chairman Kim should be a little more conscientious in his attitude even if some in his party are hatching a plot to undermine him.

## UNP Leader 'Determined' To Run for Presidency

*SK0304151492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1240 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, leader of the opposition Unification National Party [UNP], said Friday he was determined to run in the forthcoming presidential election and would make an official announcement on it in late May.

"My presidential candidacy will be finalized in a party national convention at around the end of May. The UNP has no intraparty factions and therefore its presidential candidate will not be changed whoever comes out from the Democratic Liberal Party and the Democratic Party," he said to reporters in a dinner hosted by UNP founding promoters.

"The UNP, with the cooperation of the people, will put an end to the military government and will raise the curtain for civilian politics."

Earlier in the day while golfing with business leaders, the Hyundai group founder hinted at running for the presidency by saying, "I will follow the decision of the party. You may well think that the party candidate has been already decided."

Meanwhile, the UNP will announce Saturday that lawyers has notarized Chong's pledge that he would not exercise his rights as holders of stocks of 14 listed subsidiaries of Hyundai group and eight unlisted firms.

## Poll Shows Chances for Chong Election

*SK0504035092 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 92 p 2*

[From the "Central Tower" column"]

[Text] A Unification National Party [UNP] official close to party President Chong Chu-yong said on 2 April: "If more than five candidates, including President Chong Chu-yong, run in the upcoming presidential election, Democratic Party Co-president Kim Tae-chung, who has loyal votes from approximately 25 percent of the voters, will be in a favorable position." He also said: "If three or four run, our party will have a good chance."

He also said: "I learned that a poll conducted by the government and ruling party in late February shows that if Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, and Chong Chu-yong run in the presidential election, President Chong would most likely be elected."

In the meantime, President Chong attended a meeting to celebrate the publication of a memoir by Kolon Business Group Chairman Yi Tong-chan on the night of 1 April. He met with co-chairman Kim Tae-chung at that meeting, their first meeting as opposition leaders. When Kim Tae-chung said to Chong, "How could you make it in the elections in such a short time?", Chong said: "I could because I had accumulated strength while time went by."

## Bank Official Alleges Chong's Misuse of Loans

*SK0604102592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The Office of Bank Supervision [OBS] repeated charges Monday that Hyundai Electronics Industrial Co., which insists it is innocent, unlawfully diverted a large loan to Chong Chu-yong, president of the Unification National Party and founder of the Hyundai Group.

OBS Superintendent Hwang Chang-ki said that Korea Exchange Bank, the firm's main creditor bank, would take punitive action against the Hyundai affiliate as soon as it had proof of the diversion.

Punitive measures would include striking Hyundai Electronics off the group's list of core companies. Core companies are exempt from bank credit ceilings, but are required to use their loans to build up competitiveness and are subject to bank control over the loans.

"We are saying that Hyundai Electronics diverted 4.83 billion won (6.2 million U.S. dollars) because the money went elsewhere instead of being used for business operations as intended," Hwang said.

Hyundai asserts that the money paid to Chong and his party was not from a loan, but was the proceeds from the sale of shares in Hyundai companies by Chong to Hyundai employees.

Hyundai says money from the stock sales was deposited in its bank account for convenience's sake before being transferred to its real owner.

Even if this were true, Hwang said, the proceeds could not be deposited in an account belonging to Hyundai Electronics because the shares were from another company.

If the money actually came from stock sales as Hyundai claimed, he said, it would just show that the firm mixed corporate and private funds.

Such an accounting practice would be totally incomprehensible, Hwang added.

There was suspicion that Hyundai had attempted to conceal the source of the money, he said.

Hyundai Electronics gave 3 billion won of the 4.83 billion-won loan to the Central Investment and Financial Corp. under a false name at a high interest rate for one month before withdrawing it and putting it into a bank account owned by Chong's Unification Party, he said.

"Granted that the money was from the sales of shares owned by Chong, the proceeds ought to have been used to repay the 64.7 billion-won he borrowed from various Hyundai firms," Hwang said.

On Hyundai's assertion that obs accused it of fund diversion without allowing time for the firm to explain, Hwang said OBS had solid and incontrovertible proof of the misuse and so it did not need Hyundai's explanation.

"I understand Korea Exchange Bank asked Hyundai Electronics to tender an explanation by April 4 in its effort to ascertain the diversion in its capacity as the firm's main creditor bank," he said.

### Government Says Chong Misused Hyundai Funds

*SK0404084992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0700 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP)—An official pronouncement on the abuse of Hyundai group money by Chong Chu-yong, group founder and leader of the Unification National Party [UNP], is sending shock waves through the political and business establishment.

The announcement, made by the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination (OBSE), came as a shock because Chong had denied misusing corporate funds and it did incalculable damage to the prestige of the businessman-turned-politician, who had just declared his intention to run for president in the elections later this year.

With its accusations, the government lifted its conflict with the Unification National Party and the Hyundai group to a new level. Given the UNP's respectable showing in the March general elections, it will surely become a topic of debate among the nation's leading businessmen and politicians.

The office claimed to have found proof of the abuse of Hyundai funds by Chong in a series of investigations between March 2 and March 6 but to have delayed the announcement until after the general elections because it might "wrongly" have been seen as government reprisal against Hyundai and the UNP.

It said Hyundai Electronic Industrial Co. took out loans totaling 4.83 billion won from Korea Exchange Bank on Jan. 11. Of this money, it deposited 448 million won in Chong's name in a personal account and 3 billion won into a UNP account. The rest, 1.38 billion won, was deposited in an account belonging to Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

The movements of checks drew public attention, because it is a form of "money laundering" used in the underground economy.

Denying the charges, the Hyundai group said that the 4.83 billion won was the money paid by Hyundai employees under an employee stock ownership plan.

The OBSE asked Hyundai to file a letter of explanation of the transfers with Korea Exchange Bank by Saturday. Hyundai complained Saturday, however, that the office was being unreasonable because it was ordering it to answer charges only one day after they had been made.

Korea Exchange Bank is expected to take some action against Hyundai Electronic by April 10, after investigating alleged misuse of bank loans.

The bank will wipe Hyundai Electronic from its list of main customers after the company repays the 4.83 billion won.

### Hyundai Firms Disciplined for Unlicensed Building

*SK0604101992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Korea Exchange Bank announced Monday it will discipline five affiliates of the Hyundai Group for purchasing land or buildings without its permission.

The five are Hyundai Heavy Equipment Industrial Co., Hyundai Motor Co., Hyundai Aluminium Industrial Co., Hyundai Wood Industrial Co. and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) is the main creditor bank of the Hyundai Group.

KEB Executive Director Kim Yon-cho told reporters that the firms purchased 14,000 pyong (4.7 hectares) of land and built or expanded buildings with a floor space of 28,000 pyong without the legally required permits from their creditor bank, KEB.

As a result, KEB had banned them from making any industrial investments or from acquiring any real estate for six months, and had sentenced them to financial disfavors for 12 months or to raise an amount equivalent to half the money used to buy land.

Hyundai Wood had purchased 12,200 pyong of land in Yompo-dong, Ulsan, in February and begun building a plywood plant there, for example, Kim said.

And Hyundai Motor had started to expand its workers welfare hall in Yangjong-dong, Ulsan, without KEB permission, he said.

The financial disfavors would include application of the high default bank rate, currently 21 percent, to an amount equivalent to that used to buy lands or buildings or expand buildings, he said.

Kim said he could not tell how much that might be as KEB had yet to calculate the amount used for unauthorized purchases and expansions.

### Opposition Demands Investigation of Absentee Voting

*SK0504000992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] Opposition parties, upset by the defense minister's Friday denial of allegations on irregularities in military absentee voting for the March 24 general elections, yesterday demanded the introduction of a special prosecutor to reinvestigate the case.

Dissident organizations, which have so far remained inactive with the democratic progress in President No Tae-u's Sixth Republic, are moving to stage a massive protest against the adminstration, picking up the absentee voting controversy as a momentous political issue.

There is a high possibility that they will join together for the same cause, as opposition parties asked for a rare alliance in a drastic turnaround of their position of diffusing their hawkish images to keep in line with conservative tendencies in society.

The controversial issue is likely to spiral into a grave burden on the No government, which has already been showing signs of a lame duck state with the hectic competition within his party for the presidential nomination following the crucial March 24 election setback, analysts said.

The Democratic Party [DP] hastily convened a meeting of its an hoc committee probing the case and determined that Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang's announcement was a deliberate cover-up of election rigging exposed by 1st Lt. Yi Chi-mun.

A few other soldiers gave similar accounts backing Yi's accusations while Minister Choe cleared Army and Marine units of any irregularities in absentee voting and only admitted to indirect campaigning by an Air Force general.

"The defense minister's statement is hardly acceptable in the light of reports by Lt. Yi and other personnel to our party and civic fair election associations. It amounts to a grave attempt at cover-up," Rep. Hong Yong-ki, who heads the fact-finding mission, said.

The committee requested a meeting with Choe in regard to his statement, which was reportedly toned down under the strong influence of junior generals who came to Seoul from the Army Headquarters in Chungchongnam-to.

It further proposed to the Citizens Council for Fair Elections, a voluntary election watchdog body composed of 20-odd civic organizations, joint action to have the Central Election Management Committee, the government election agency, conduct an independent examination.

Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the main opposition party, cited the need to appoint a special prosecutor for an independent inquiry into the controversy as the court-martial at the Ninth Infantry Division will "lack objectivity" in handling Lt. Yi's case.

DP spokesman Chang Suk-hwa said in a statement that Minister Choe's idea of suspending the right of military servicemen to vote is unconstitutional, stressing that his remarks fell far short of public expectations of a frank admission as to the truth of Yi's allegations.

"The defense minister should have admitted to Yi's revelation, apologized and vowed to keep the military neutral in political matters," the statement pointed out.

The Unification National Party [UNP] also hurriedly called a meeting of key executives under the chairmanship of Chong Chu-yong and renewed its call for the convocation of an extraordinary National Assembly session to deal with the issue, judging that Choe's announcement was far from revealing the truth.

The New Party for Political Reform proposed to the DP and the UNP that they organize an Assembly fact-finding committee.

Seeing as how the absentee votes, 80 percent of which come from active military servicemen, might have affected their election results, four first runners-up defeated by ruling party nominees by margins of less than 1,000 ballots have filed lawsuits with the courts. Several others are preparing similar suits.

## DP Asks CEMC To Investigate

*SK0604102092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party's [DP] team investigating allegations of vote rigging in the military called on Yun Kwan, chairman of the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), and urged him to open an inquiry into the charges Monday.

Expressing their deep distrust in Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang's announcement Friday that there was no rigging of absentee ballots for the March 24 general elections, team members asked Yun to investigate the charges fairly and to subject anyone involved in rigging to harsh punishment.

To support their demand, they produced material collected by the DP and the Citizens' Coalition for Fair Elections (CCFE), an alliance of over 300 civic groups.

They promised to deliver material and data connected with the allegations, including testimony of 1st Lt. Yi Chi-mun, who first made the charges, and an audio tape of an Air Force air defense artillery unit commander telling his subordinates to vote for the ruling party.

## Detention of NSP Election Violators Postponed

*SK0604030392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office postponed Monday detention period for four intelligence agents suspected of illegal campaigning in the general elections until April 15.

Han Ki-yong and three other agents of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] were taken into custody by the prosecution after being caught redhanded stuffing fliers slandering opposition party candidate Hong Sa-tok into the mailboxes of apartments in Kangnam, southern Seoul.

Prosecutors inquired into the background and motivation for disseminating the fliers, but learned nothing from the agents.

Separately, the prosecution indicted three university students, who helped election campaigns by mobilizing a large crowd for the Unification National Party (UNP) in return for money, and Ko Chol-yong, the UNP official who employed them.

The students were charged with receiving 27.8 million won for gathering some 700 students at four outdoor rallies to cheer UNP candidates.

## Technology Proposed Focus for Intelligence Services

*SK0604011792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon yesterday suggested that the government intelligence agencies take up the new role of gathering up-to-date information on the advanced technologies of foreign countries.

In a briefing to President No Tae-u in the meeting of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Science and Technology at Chongwadae, the science minister said the intelligence agencies' new role is necessary to cope with rapidly changing global environment and emerging technologicla protectionism by advanced countries.

"Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and National Security Agency (NSA) have been all out to gather technological information, a sharp departure from their old role of spying against Communist foes," Kim said.

Kim briefed No that since the late 1991, the United States, Japan and other advanced countries have redefined their concept of national security, shifting the emphasis from military factors to renovation in science and technology.

Kim said, "The advanced countries are swiftly revamping their industrial structure and transferring R & D manpower and technological potential in the military field to civilian industrial sectors in an effort to win hectic international industrial and trade competition.

"To survive the cut-throat global scientific and technologicla war," Kim said, "the ministry will actively launch productive science and technology diplomacy through brisk personnel exchanges and participation in international fora."

Kim said, "In particular,the ministry will encourage Korean companies to advance to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member countries to acquire their advanced basic and high technologies."

Minister Kim said to maximize the effect of R & D investment, the ministry is selecting a score of strategic technological fields in which Korea will be able to compete with advanced countries, in close consultation with private industrial firms.

Kim briefed No that the government's financial and administrative support will be focused on development of new environmental, nuclear and other basic core technologies.

To carry out the plan without a hitch, the minister said, the government should increase budget in scientific and technologicla fields markedly in 1993.

In the meeting, Kim Song-chin, president of the advisory commission, recommended the esablishment of a research institute in charge of environmental technology development.

"The institute will plan and coordinate the R & D of environment-related technologies by government-run and private research bodies," Kim briefed No.

To finance the environmental technology development, the commission head said, the govenrment should collect more money from pollution-causing industrial firm operators in proportion to the volume of pollutants they generate.

Kim urged the government to step up its effort to develop "clean energy," alternatives to ozone-layer-destroying chloroflurocarbons (CFC), electric cars and other environment-preserving technologies.

To solve industiral and scientific manpower shortages, the commission advised the Chief Executive to give various favors, including exemptions from compulsory military duty, to highly skilled workers and post-doc researchers.

## Acquisition of Soviet Technology Urged

*SK0404041992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] Korea should make a bold move to introduce advanced scientific and industrial technologies from the former Soviet Union by taking advantage of its current "technology marketing" policy, Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon said yesterday.

In a report to President No Tae-u yesterday, Minister Kim said that Korea should consider attracting scientists from the former Soviet Union who are leaving for the West.

The government has set a goal of overtaking G-7 countries in ten years in several key industrial areas, such as semiconductors, automobiles and electronics.

Kim also told No that Korean businesses need to actively move into the former Soviet Union and China to acquire advanced technologies that they cannot get from Western nations because of their technology protectionism policy.

The former Soviet Union has expressed its intention to sell its scientific know-how to the Western countries, including Korea, in recent months.

Korea has signed a science and technology cooperation agreement with the former Soviet Union. Korea and China have agreed to conclude a similar accord at an early date during Kim's visit last month to Beijing.

Korea is to invite hundreds of scientists from the former Soviet union this year in accordance with the science and technology cooperation agreement.

In his report, Kim warned about fast growing technology protectionism among major Western countries and their recent move to form an alliance to keep their advanced technologies out of reach from less-developed nations.

To cope with the rising barriers of technology protectionism, Kim reported to No that Korea needs to strengthen diplomatic efforts and at the same time enhance its own ability to develop technology.

Kim cited the Jan. 9, 1992, U.S.-Japan Declaration in Tokyo as a sign of the accelerating move by the United States and Japan to form a "technology protection alliance" to maintain their global technological superiority.

To catch up with industrialized nations, Korea should pursue the dual policy of imitation and creation, Kim said, adding that the rising technology protectionism by major Western nations would no longer allow Korea to obtain advanced technology through imitation of foreign technologies and products.

Kim also said that the government should sharply increases its budget for research projects in coming years lest the country might fall out of the global technology development race.

The minister urged that the government should divert part of its defense-research budget to basic scientific research.

Following Kim's report, the President Council on Science and Technology made a similar suggestion to No in a separate report.

The 10-member council said in the report that the country should drastically improve the quality of education at engineering and science colleges.

As an example, the ratio between students and professors at engineering schools is 30 to 1, the world's highest. Hence, it should be lowered to 10 to 1, the ratio maintained in advanced countries such as the United States and Japan, the council said.

## Government Seeks 5 Percent Limit on Wage Increases

*SK0604024192 Seoul YONHAP in English*
*0141 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The season for wage negotiations has begun and the government is trying hard to ensure that major industrial employers allow only marginal raises, convinced that wage stability is the key to the success of economic operations.

Government policy is to advise the affiliates of the 30 largest conglomerates and other major companies to hold pay hikes down to 5 percent or less on the basis of total income, including bonuses and fixed allowances.

Officials at the Economic Planning Board and other government agencies concerned with wages said the government was insisting on using total pay as the basis for calculating wage hikes because last year the announced average of 10.2 percent did little to reflect reality due to hefty increases in bonuses and allowances.

The increase averaged 17.5 percent among industrial firms and 20.4 percent among industrial firms with 500 or more workers when looked at as a total package.

A thorny path is foreseen for wage negotiations this year as major labor organizations like the Federation of Korean Trade Unions are dead opposed to raises based on total pay and the government is bent on imposing its will.

In a carrot-and-stick strategy, the government promises tax and financial favors for those employers that comply with its policy: and disfavor in public biddings, financial dealings and various government permits for those that resist.

## State-Run Firms May Enter Satellite Cities

*SK0604070992 Seoul YONHAP in English*
*0609 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The government's recent decision to allow removal of state-run enterprises from Seoul into satellite cities is regarded as a setback to its policy of curbing migration of population to the metropolitan area.

The government decided to allow removal of government-financed corporations in Seoul to Pundang and Ilsan, two satellite cities being built on the outskirts of the capital, if approved by the metropolitan restructuring deliberation committee.

At least 18 government-run corporations, including the Korea Housing Corp., the Korea Mining Promotion Corp., the Korea Land Development Corp., and the Korea National Red Cross are trying to move into one of the two satellite cities.

If the government approves the relocation plans, critics say, it could have an adverse effect since it would be perceived as a change in government policy and will to disperse population away from the Seoul metropolitan area.

## Burma

### UN Envoy Eliasson Arrives for Official Visit

#### Probes Muslim Refugee Issue

*BK0204151092 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Apr 92*

[Text] At the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations under secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon.

While in Myanmar [Burma], the UN under secretary-general will visit townships in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border region to study and examine the true situation there. He will also hold discussions with Myanmar authorities on humanitarian affairs connected with immigration problems.

The UN under secretary-general was accompanied by Miss (Linda Hazul) political officer, UN Humanitarian Affairs Department, and Mr. (Sumapla S. Wisaratne) special representative from the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees].

Mr. Eliasson and delegation was welcomed at Yangon Airport by U Kyaw Min, Myanmar's permanent representative to the UN; U Ba Thwin, director general of International Organizations and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; U Aye Lwin, director general of Consular Affairs, International Agreements, and Research Department; U Aye, director general of Political Affairs Department; and Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program].

#### Inspects Arakan Region

*BK0304144292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Bangkok, April 3 (AFP)—A senior United Nations official traveled Friday to western Burma to probe allegations of murder, rape, and other atrocities against Burmese Muslims causing a flood of refugees to neighbouring Bangladesh.

UN Undersecretary General Jan Eliasson flew to Arakan Province with Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw and other senior officials, said a UN official contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

Eliasson, who arrived in the Burmese capital from Bangladesh on Thursday, said earlier that the aim of his mission was to secure the safe and voluntary return of some 200,000 Burmese Muslims to their homes.

The Burmese Muslims, known as Rohingyas, have been streaming into Bangladesh for some months, alleging a systematic campaign of violence against them by Burmese troops.

Eliasson issued an appeal for urgent international aid for the refugees Thursday while in Bangladesh.

"I have realised the magnitude of the problem and feel the issue requires to be dealt with urgently," he said after visiting 12 camps where refugees are settling in southern Bangladesh.

The United Nations was ready to act as a catalyst in finding a negotiated settlement to the problem, he said.

Last week Burma's military government took Rangoon-based diplomats and reporters to the border region.

According to a letter secretly slipped to one of the visiting diplomats by a Muslim villager, Muslims are being murdered and raped, and some of their villages have been burnt down.

Diplomats said they watched as plainclothes Burmese military intelligence officers beat villagers who tried to talk to the visitors.

The Burmese junta has repeatedly denied it is committing atrocities against its Muslim minority, saying that Burmese troops were carrying out operations against insurgents in the area and the people fleeing to Bangladesh were in fact illegal immigrants, avoiding routine checks by officials.

#### Muslims Deny Rape, Prosecution

*BK0404155192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations under secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, who is currently in Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, left Yangon [Rangoon] in a military plane at 0800 on 3 April to observe the true situation at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Mr. Eliasson was accompanied by Miss (Linda Hazul), political affairs officer from the UN Humanitarian Affairs Department; Mr. (Sumapla S. Wisaratne), representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of the UN Development Program; and U Kyaw Min, member of the Myanmar permanent mission in New York.

The border fact finding delegation arrived in Sittwe at 0930 and was welcomed at the Sittwe Aiport by Brigadier General Win Myint, commander of the Western Military Command; Commodore Khin Soe, commander of the Rakhine [Arakan] Naval Base; Colonel Htay Win, deputy commander of the Western Command; and responsible officials.

The delegation was given a tour of Sittwe by Western Commander Brig. Gen. Win Myint. They left Sittwe Airfield by helicopter at 1140 and arrived at Khamaungzeik village in Maungdaw Township—the nearest village to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border—at 1235.

The delegation was welcomed by over 1,000 villagers led by village elders and imams from the mosques. U Hla

Maung, a village elder from Khamaungzeik village, first briefed the delegation on information related to religion, population, location of the village, education, and social and religious affairs of the village.

The delegation members next observed the Muslim faithful praying at Khamaungzeik village mosque. The village elders and imams explained that they have state schools as well as Muslim religious schools in their village and that the students attended religious schools in the morning and state primary schools in the afternoon. They explained that there is no restriction on religion and that there is freedom of worship. They denied reports that their mosques have been burned down and destroyed. They also said reports of rape of Muslim women and prosecution were absolutely untrue. They explained that majority of those who fled to the country on the other side were landless laborers who went there after hearing reports about distribution of relief goods. They said some of them who were disappointed have already returned.

They said they are having to explain in the mosques that people should not be misled by attempts to undermine solidarity in the region.

Next, the members of the delegation met with village elders in a state primary school in Khamaungzeik village and freely asked questions. The delegation left the village at 1330 and arrived in Taungpaza village in Buthidaung Township. They were welcomed by over 2,000 people led by U Ba Saw, headmaster of Taungpazar village high school and imams.

Headmaster U Ba Saw, who is a Myanmar Muslim, explained how they were born and had lived in Myanmar for generations and that every citizen has to follow and observe the laws of the country and be loyal. He said there are those who are organizing the innocent villagers in Muslim villages, and it is necessary to explain to the people about the instigation carried out to undermine regional solidarity. Explanations were also given regarding population, household lists, economic and social affairs, and communications.

Next, Mr. Eliasson greeted the villagers and their families and viewed literature on fabrications made and distributed by Rohingya terrorist insurgent organizations—the RSO [Rohingya Solidarity Organization], ARIF [Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front], and RPF [Rohingya Patriotic Front] and relief goods received from those who have returned from the country on the other side.

The delegation left Taungpaza village at 1450 and returned to Sittwe Airport at 1530. The delegation returned to Rangoon at 1445 today.

### Visits Satellite Town, Pagoda

*BK0604052392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations under secretary general for humanitarian affairs, who is currently in Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, and his delegation, accompanied by Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of United Nations Development Program, visited and paid respect to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 0900 today.

They were welcomed and given a tour of the pagoda by U Maung Tun and U Nyan Lwin, members of the Pagoda Trustees Association. The UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and his delegation then proceeded in cars to the northern part of New Dagon satellite town. They were welcomed at the Office of Myanmar Timber Enterprise by members of the Committee for Construction of New Dagon Satellite Town. U Tin Win, joint secretary of the committee, explained the new satellite town construction scheme to the delegation. Next, a video demonstration on the new satellite town scheme was shown to the guests, and responsible officials answered questions from the guests.

The UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and his delegation also visited a concrete bridge and a suspension bridge of the New Dagon satellite town. The guests left the New Dagon satellite town at 1200.

In the evening, Mr. Gerd Merrem, UNDP [United Nations' Development Program] resident representative, held a reception in honor of the UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and his delegation at the UNDP Office on Natmauk Road. Later in the evening, U Kyaw Min, permanent representative of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York, hosted a dinner in honor of the guests at Karaweik Hall.

## Oil Group To Resume Drilling 'This Month'

*BK0404014592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Apr 92 p 13*

[Excerpts] An international oil group which includes Thailand's state-owned PTT Exploration & Production (PTTEP) is moving towards resuming drilling in central Burma this month as part of its renewed quest for hydrocarbons there.

Two exploratory wells were planned to be drilled this year in block F which the group led by California-based Unocal Corp believed to possess strong oil potential, according to industry sources in Bangkok.

One of two planned wells, located in the southeastern part of the block, was said to have better prospects than the previous well drilled last year in the Kandaw structure. [passage omitted]

The Unocal group was required to drill one more well over the 6,200-square-kilometre tract this year as it entered the third year of the three-year obligation period as agreed with Burma.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise (MOGE), Burma's state oil firm, had begun talks with Myanmar Shell to develop the recent gas discovery near Rangoon in its bid to secure additional gas supply to offset the decline in gas production for power generation.

Industry sources said the power shortage in the country had recently become more acute as production from the existing onshore gas fields had dropped below the previous rate of 100 MMcfd. [million cubic feet per day]

An executive of a western oil company operating in Burma estimated current gas production in Burma at 70 MMcfd, about 40 percent of which was used for power generation and the remainder for its chemical industries. [passage omitted]

The gas discovery at the Shell well was the only success among the eight onshore exploration wells drilled by the nine foreign oil companies which entered into the production-sharing contracts with Burma. The foreign companies planned to drill five to six more wells this year.

## Article Views Karen Frontline in Manerplaw

*BK0504054192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 92 p 4*

[By Gavin Lewis in Manerplaw]

[Text] The crack of sniper fire silences, for a moment, the early morning jungle chorus. Taking my cue from the Karen soldiers around me, I ignore the urge to drop flat on my face in the sand and instead get on with my breakfast of rice, fishpaste and boiled leaves.

By the time the last morsels are shoveled up, I too have become used to this "harassment" fire, which is just as well since it continues throughout the morning.

The previous evening Major Nando had led me across a rice field in the moonlight. He pointed out Tipevicho, or Sleeping Dog Mountain, to our right. It had fallen to the Burmese troops a few days earlier with the loss of 18 Karen dead and more than 30 wounded, and from it the forces of Rangoon's State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) were preparing their attack on the rebel headquarters at Manerplaw.

Ahead, Major Nando said, was a flank of Slorc troops and another behind us. About eight kilometres to our left and across the Salween river lay Manerplaw. Any Burmese soldiers that way? Only some forward observers to aid the Burmese as they range in with their heavy guns on Manerplaw, the major explained.

A deserted hillside village was searched for Slorc troops and, found to be safe, offered us shelter for the night.

The sniper fire began the next chilly morning.

After breakfast, with the temperature moving steadily up towards its midday peak, we rolled up our blanket, shouldered backpacks and set off for the Karen forward positions at Mae Pha.

Mae Pha district lies in the shadow of Tipevicho and directly between this strategically important mountain and Manerplaw. The other two mountains in the battlefield, Bobejo and Daw Dai, as well as an imposing ridge line, remain in Karen hands for now.

We follow a dusty track through dense foliage and across refreshing creeks until we arrive at a trench line. Dotted with foxholes and heavily fortified bunkers, the trench cuts a zigzag path up a steep ridge before disappearing into the jungle.

Soldiers, both Karen and students, sit in small knots, smoking cheroots or chewing betelnut, their weapons close at hand. Rifles vary from World War II MI carbines, with their worn wooden stocks, to Chinese and Soviet AK47s, "the best assult rifle ever", and the occasional American M16.

Some of the soldiers wear, Mexican bandit-style, two belts of launchable grenades over their shoulders, while others sport homemade grenades which must be lit with a match before throwing. Their uniforms are a mishmash of combat gear, longis and rubber sandals.

Inside the bunkers the swept floors are covered with palm fronds while their roofs are piled high with thick logs. The bunkers will protect the soldiers from the dreaded airburst shells, stray shrapnel and small arms fire—everything, in fact, except a direct mortar hit.

I follow the unit commander up to the forward-most position, where the trench line forms a T. The commander points across the gully in front of us to the opposite hill.

"That's a Burmese position," he says. A clearing fronted by a wall of logs is set into the hill about two hundred yards away. I step nervously behind a teak tree.

"But there are also soldiers just below us," he adds cheerily and points to the dense bamboo covering the steep slope at our feet. "You can call out to them. The officers speak English, although I'm not sure whether they'll answer you with words or guns." I pass up this opportunity.

I notice that most of the soldiers up at this section are students of the ABSDF—who have been fighting alongside the Karen since the 1988 prodemocracy uprising was so ruthlessly crushed by Slorc.

Conservative estimates put the number of dead in Rangoon, Mandalay and other centres at 10,000, and elements of the 22nd Light Infantry Division, believed to be responsible for the worst massacres and torture at that time, are now thought to be up in the hills around Mae Pha.

The Karen themselves have been fighting Rangoon regimes for the past 43 years and while they have been generous with the students and other groups, allowing them to use Manerplaw in the years of crisis since 1988 there is, nevertheless, a feeling that the students are the johnnies-come-lately to the battle.

There is also Karen concern that come the end of the Slorc regime, Karen ambitions for equal status within a federal Burma may be brushed under the carpet in the ensuing rush for power in Rangoon.

But for the moment the battle is against the hated Slorc and the belief (or hope) seems to be that if they can hold out to the end of the current dry season, there may not be a Slorc around to fight next winter.

A Karen intelligence source I spoke to at Manerplaw said that Slorc was having to break up and mix infantry divisions in its battle with the Karen in order to avoid the possibility of mutiny.

And Karen soldiers report seeing NCOs [non-commissioned officers] using their rifle butts on the backs of Burmese soldiers too afraid to press further into battle.

Clearly, the Rangoon regime put itself under unnecessary pressure by naming the exact date by which Manerplaw was to come under its control. March 27, Burma's National Armed Forces Day, undoubtedly sounded a romantic note in the ears of Ne Win, Khin Nyunt and Saw Maung, but reality proved a little more difficult.

The fall of Tipevicho, proudly trumpeted on Rangoon television was the first and vital step. From the scarred top of this imposing mountain, Manerplaw itself can be pulverized with 120mm mortar rounds. But the shells will pass over the heads of the Karen and student forces. For the Burmese soldiers the journey to Manerplaw will be a little more difficult.

Perhaps the junta leaders expected a pre-election paralysis in Thailand to work in their favour and allow Burmese troops to cross behind the Karen lines, into Thailand, for their final assault. If so, Slorc miscalculated.

We reach the second trench line, more or less parallel with the first, by midday. The sniper fire has petered out and we hear a fire fight raging at the camp where we'd had breakfast.

"Just a probe," I'm told. the Burmese put up a little fire to see what comes back. They hope from these probes to determine the exact positions of the Karen's big guns, but the Karen answer with small arms and grenades.

I heard three further probes at different spots along the frontline during the day.

After lunch, which is a time rather than a meal at the front, we listen to the ranging shots going on near Manerplaw. All afternoon the pounding goes on, a loud crump, followed by a rumbling echo. A Burmese students tells me that Manerplaw is being hit but that there is little damage and later I find out that many of the shells have landed in Thailand or in the Moei river, just behind Manerplaw.

That night it becomes clear where the rest of the shells fell. As we look out towards the rise separating Manerplaw from the frontline, the crest is ablaze and in the early hours of the following morning the fire has spread. Phosphorous bombs, I'm told.

Radio intercepts tell us the next day that the Burmese are cutting a road up the back of Tipevicho so as to get the massive 120mm mortar launchers up to its peak and I am reminded of the porters I spoke to who had managed to escape the clutches of Slorc.

Snatched from cinemas, train stations or the rice fields, these civilians were press-ganged into carrying supplies of arms, ammunition and food for the Burmese troops.

Even allowing for the possibility of exaggeration, their stories make horrific listening. All speak of carrying great weights on too little food—it takes three men to carry a 120mm and horrific torture. I spoke to a man who had seen his brother beaten almost unconscious by Slorc soldiers, then covered with leaves and set alight. He was left for dead.

Reports from the four women porters now being looked after by the Karen are worse. Not only did they endure similar torture and hardship to the men, they were also subjected to nightly gang rapes by the soldiers.

The porters, now returning to normal health, are free to come and go as they please under the Karen. Most wish to return home, but are all too aware of the dangers associated with the arduous journey through Slorc lines.

Back at Manerplaw, the mood is noticeably less optimistic, now that Tipevicho has fallen, and all but non-essential personnel are being cleared out of headquarters.

The destruction of Manerplaw will undoubtedly be a severe blow to morale for the Karen, but some of the top echelons in the Karen National Liberation Army believe that it may prove to be a blessing in disguise.

A jungle-based headquarters means that all supplies must be funneled through it, and its presence causes the Karen to fight their unequal battle along conventional lines.

The loss of their headquarters could force the Karen into a more appropriate role as guerrilla fighers, who will certainly be able to rely on the support of the locals for what could turn out to be a more decisive phase of their battle against Rangoon.

# Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

## Malaysia

### Need To Solve Spratlys Issue 'Amicably' Stressed

*BK3103134492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] A nagging problem that continues to persist in the East Asian region is the overlapping claims by six countries over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The PRC has laid claim to the entire area. Last month, China's parliament passed a law to back the claim to irreversible sovereignty over the islands.

Meanwhile, governments of five other countries, namely Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brunei, and Malaysia, have also staked claim of a part or whole of the Spratlys. It is indeed a thorny issue and if left unresolved amicably, it can hurt the bilateral ties that are being nurtured and developed in the region.

What is of concern is that when the Chinese parliament passed the law pertaining to the issue, it also reserved a right for the use of force over the islands. If such an event thus occurs, and we hope not, it can have serious repercussions.

The United States has responded with a warning that it will use its own military might to deter any power intending to exercise total control over the Spratlys. The United States claims to have a powerful force in the Pacific that is capable of dealing with any move which can disrupt the regional stability. Such threats and counterthreats can also serve to send alarm signals that may lead to irreparable damage.

By contrast, the Russian ambassador to Malaysia, speaking in Kuala Lumpur two days ago, counsels the contending parties laying claim to the Spratlys to reach a solution through consultations and negotiations. He was (?of course) right in his statement that China's stand on this issue was inconsistent with the current situation in the world. His advice should be heeded. Many countries engaged in a quest for their social and economic developments are seeking to find peaceful solutions to disputes that may arise and are averse to the use of force to back their claim or rights.

Where Malaysia is concerned, its developments of friendly ties with China has been on a healthy and upward trend since diplomatic relations were resumed in 1974. The exchange of the visits by the heads of state and heads of government as well as trade missions of the two countries have led to tremendous progress in bilateral relations in various fields. The principle initiators of these ties, namely the then premiers Zhou Enlai and Tun Abdul Razak, have passed from the scene, but the legacy they left behind has remained to this day and continues to be nurtured by the present leadership of the two nations. It will be a pity if such close links are allowed to be disturbed by the controversy over the Spratly Islands.

Apart from the Spratlys' ideal and strategic location, it is believed to be rich in fish, oil, and gas resources. Hence, the eagerness to lay claims on the area. Malaysia strongly believes that mediation and mutual negotiations can help settle the dispute amicably and to everyone's satisfaction. Such a solution will be in the spirit of the Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality, or ZOPFAN, the quest for which has been in the forefront of ASEAN's goals and aspirations for the region.

### Disputed Island Claim To Be Negotiated

*BK0204093092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Mar 92 p 3*

[Text] There is no necessity to bring to court Singapore's claims on territorial rights over Pulau Batu Putih [Pedra Branca] as the matter can be settled through discussion.

Justice Minister Syed Hamid Albar said this here today.

He added that Wisma Putra [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] was making arrangements for the exchange of legal documents as the basis of negotiations.

He was speaking to reporters after the prime minister's wife, Datin Sri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali opened the Malaysian International Shipping Corporation's Maritime Museum here.

Syed Hamid said both sides would enter into negotiations as soon as the documents were prepared.

An agreement would be signed once the matter was settled.

### Airport Shut Down 'Temporarily' After Fire

*BK0604030892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 6 (AFP)—A major fire early Tuesday forced Kuala Lumpur International Airport to shut-down temporarily, radio news reports said.

Three security guards were feared dead and several people injured in the blaze which started in Terminal One, which serves international flights, at 2:50 A.M. (1850 GMT), the radio quoted police as saying.

Police said the fire started at Terminal One's duty-free shopping area and spread rapidly to its cargo area. Firemen were still fighting the blaze.

All out-going flights were suspended while incoming flights were diverted to other airports in the country, the radio said, quoting a Malaysia Airlines official at the airport.

Authorities could not be reached immediately to confirm the report.

### Cause of Fire Still Unknown

*BK0604094892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0839 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 6 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Kuala Lumpur International Airport's Terminal One, which was temporarily closed following a fire Monday morning, will be reopened at 1800 hours (Malaysian Standard Time) [1000 GMT] Monday, a Malaysia Airlines (MAS) spokesman said.

Three security guards were killed in the fire at the airport in Subang, about 10 km south of here.

The airport is scheduled to handle 62 incoming and outgoing flights Monday.

About half of the flights, both incoming and outgoing, were affected by the terminal shutdown. The outgoing flights were suspended while incoming flights were diverted to Terminal Two which normally handles domestic flights, the Senai Airport in Johor Baharu, capital of the southern Johor state, and the Bayan Lepas International Airport in Penang in the northwest.

Public Works Minister Leo Moggie said operations at Terminal One should return to normal in two or three days.

Police at the airport said the fire started at about 0250 hours (Malaysian Standard Time) in the duty-free area in Terminal One and was brought under control about six hours later. Most of the 30 shops selling liquor, cosmetics, jewelry, chocolates, and souvenirs were destroyed.

The cause of the fire and the extent of damage has yet to be ascertained.

### Failure of Environment Meeting 'Expected'

*BK0504083492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] The failure to achieve significant success at the New York preparatory meeting on the environment was expected. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said developed countries were the main culprit behind the failure. The meeting was to prepare an accord to be adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED, summit to be held in Brazil this June.

The prime minister was answering questions by newsmen during a break in the Hari Raya [end of Ramadan fasting month] open house at his residence in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon. He said economic considerations of the developed countries were the main reason behind the failure. All the resolutions adopted by the preparatory meeting had been voted down. He also said that Malaysia would go ahead with a meeting of all developing countries in Kuala Lumpur at the end of this month to have a united stand at the UNCED. Malaysia still has not decided whether to attend the summit or not.

### Annual Report Details 1991 Economic Growth

*BK0204131292 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Mar 92 p 13*

[Text] The Malaysian economy recorded yet another buoyant year in 1991 with a creditable growth rate of 8.8 percent driven primarily by private investment in the manufacturing sector.

The report says this 8.8 percent in real gross domestic product (GDP), which represented the fifth consecutive year of economic expansion, accompanied a sharp drop in the unemployment rate to 5.6 percent.

In line with the sustained growth in GDP, The nominal gross national product (GNP) rose by 12.4 percent (15.3 percent in 1990).

The report says the nominal per capita income increased by 9.9 percent to $6,817 in 1991, equivalent to about US$2,500 (1990: 12.7 percent to $6,206).

Growth in private sector expenditure moderated from 17 percent to 14.9 percent in 1991, reflecting slower growth in both private consumption and investment.

In real terms, private investment outlays moderated to 23 percent while the pace of private consumer spending slowed down to 11.6 percent, compared with 24.8 percent and 13.6 percent respectively in 1990.

On the other hand, public sector expenditure increased further by 10.8 percent in 1991 (1990: 11.5 percent).

This was mainly on account of rising public consumption which increased by 9.6 percent (1990: 6.5 percent), reflecting higher Government expenditure on supplies and services as well as higher emoluments following the civil service salary revision.

The report says the growth in public investment, however, moderated to 12.2 percent in 1991 in the wake of sharp increases of 34.3 percent and 17.1 percent in 1989 and 1990 respectively.

On the supply side, the manufacturing, construction and services sectors continued to lead overall output growth, all of which registered strong double digit growth but at a more moderate pace during the year.

Almost all industries, except for the off-estate processing industry, recorded higher output. At the same time, a group of new manufacturers is fast emerging and expanding rapidly in terms of output growth.

This situation arose from the surge in foreign investment evident since 1988 and the implementation of new projects over the last two years. However, these new industries which include, among others, enterprises involved in the production of selected household electrical appliances, games and toys, were not captured in the new Index of Manufacturing Production.

The services sector registered a growth rate of 10.5 percent, mainly owing to higher growth in the wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, and the financial services sub-sectors.

The overall balance of payments position registered a surplus of $3.4 billion in 1991 ($5.4 billion in 1990), resulting in an equivalent increase in the international reserves of the central bank to $30.4 billion by the end of 1991, sufficient to finance about 3.6 months of retained imports.

At the end of 1991, the ringgit recorded a mixed performance and in terms of the composite basket, depreciated by 2.9 percent from its end-1990 level.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 4.4 percent during 1991 (3.1 percent) in 1990 and could well have been higher if not for lower international inflation which reduced imported inflation in Malaysia.

The employment situation improved further in 1991 with official estimates showing a decline in unemployment from six percent in 1990 to 5.6 percent last year.

The overall financial position of the Federal Government remained favourable in 1991 with Federal revenue rising by a further 14.6 percent to reach $33.8 billion.

### Central Bank Reports on 1991 Monetary Policy

*BK3003100692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Malaysia's monetary policy this year will continue to be tight. This follows the recent strong inflow of funds from abroad. Besides, there is an expected favorable real gross domestic product growth of 8.7 percent.

The governor of Bank Negara, the Central Bank, Tan Sri Jaafar Hussein, says emphasis will continue to be placed on (?attaining) savings and moderating inflation. At the same time, adequate liquidity will be made available to finance the productive requirements of the economy. Growth will be achieved by the strength of sustained expansion in domestic demand, particularly as private investment proposals approved in 1990-91 come on stream.

He was speaking at the presentation of the central bank's annual report for 1991. Tan Sri Jaafar said Malaysia's export performance this year is expected to be better than indicated by the growth of economic activity in the Group of Seven nations and world trade. This is because of the country's rapidly changing structure of exports and diversification of markets.

## Singapore

### Telecommunications Company Given Exclusive Rights

*BK0404052392 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Apr 92 p 1*

[Excerpt] The Government has granted exclusive rights for 15 years to the newly formed Singapore Teleocmmunications (ST) and its subsidiary Singapore Post (SP), to provide basic telecommunications and postal services.

To protect the interests of consumers, ST and SP are obliged to provide the services to anyone in Singapore who asks for them under conditions imposed by the Telecommunications Authority of Singapore (TAS).

Speaking at the launch of the revamped statutory board and the two companies yeterday, Communications Minister Mah Bow Tan said:

"ST must ensure that every household and business which wants a telephone line can get it, regardless of where they are located in Singapore."

"Likewise, SP must ensure that basic postal services, such as collection and delivery of letters, are provided."

The basic services covered by the TAS licence to ST and SP include domestic telephone services and IDD [International Direct Dial], telex and telegram services, and the collection and delivery of letters and postcards.

Also speaking at the launch, Mr. Koh Boon Hwee, who has been appointed ST's chairman, assured Singaporeans that rates would stay competitive, reasonable, and affordable.

"In other words, privatisation of ST and SP should not mean higher prices for our services."

Endorsing competition, Mr. Mah said that the Government was committed to a policy of liberalising the industry in the years ahead, although the process would be at a gradual pace.

This is to allow the new companies and the reconstituted TAS, which regulates and develops the industry in Singapore, to adjust to their new status and roles.

He explained that it was necessary to grant the companies exclusive rights for a specified period because of the heavy infrastructural investment they undertake in providing telecommuinication and postal services.

The average economic life of the capital equipment involved is about 15 years, he said.

For example, he pointed out, ST would spend about $3.5 billion [Singapore Dollars] in the next five years on infrastructure while SP would invest more than $300 million [Singapore Dollars] on an automated mail processing centre in Jalan Eunos [Eunos Road] to cater for increased demand for postal services. [passage omitted]

# Cambodia

## Sihanouk To Visit PRC for Medical Treatment

*BK0304121592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Message to compatriots from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and Supreme National Council chairman, issued on 3 April in Phnom Penh—read by announcer]

[Text] Most beloved children and compatriots: I, your Prince Father Norodom Sihanouk, am honored to inform you of the following:

1. I am to lead a distinguished delegation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] composed particularly of His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, for official visits to the PRC and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from 7 April to 17 April 1992.

2. I will come back and start work in Phnom Penh again on 17, 18, 19, and 20 April 1992.

3. I ask for your permission, my children and compatriots, to go back to Beijing of the PRC after 20 April 1992 so that doctors there can check me and take care of some of my health problems. Two weeks after undergoing medical treatment in Beijing, I will return to Phnom Penh to continue serving you, my children and compatriots, and our sacred motherland.

On the coming Cambodian traditional New Year, I would like to express to you, dear children and compatriots, my deepest affection and unswerving loyalty. I would like also to bestow my warmest wishes on all of you. May all of you always enjoy happiness, prosperity, peace, and the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

## Hun Sen Returns, Hails Trip as 'Successful'

*BK0304143792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Summary from poor reception] "At 0230 on 3 April His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] returned to Phnom Penh after leading a delegation for visits to Japan, the United States, and the French Republic since 20 March, with excellent results. Greeting H.E. Hun Sen at Pochentong Airport were Chea Soth, Standing Committee member of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee; Say Chhum, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; General Tie Banh, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and SOC defense minister; Mrs. Men Sam-an, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; General Sin Song, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and minister of national security; Gen. Pol Saroeun, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; Sim Ka, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh City Party Committee; Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the SoC Council of Ministers; Troeung Meali, chief of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's office, and several officials and personalities of the SOC.

"H.E. Yukio Imagawa, Japan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; H.E. Charles Twining, special representative of the United States; H.E. Philippe Coste, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic; and H.E. Sunai Bunyasiriphan, permanent representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to Cambodia, were also on hand.

"Upon his arrival, H.E. made the following statement to local and foreign press correspondents at Pochentong Airport":

[Begin recording] [Hun Sen] Ladies and gentlemen: I have just visited Tokyo, Washington, and Paris. This mission was to seek financial contributions for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. "In reality, I am not a UN official. But Washington needed to hear my explanation of the situation. I told them about the danger or consequences of the lack of funds for UNTAC operations in Cambodia." I made a good impression and I heard the U.S. congress has lately decided to allocate funds for UNTAC.

I can say that Tokyo has paid keen attention to the Cambodian problem. They have already contributed funds for UNTAC's initial operations and have even increased funds for UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Rufugees] operation to repatriate Cambodian refugees. Japan has even exceeded their obligations. I do not know by how many percent Tokyo would increase their dues because it seems that they are waiting for the decisions and attitudes of other countries, especially the United States regarding these funds.

It is known to all that France is very active in UNTAC. In Paris, I discussed bilateral cooperation between France and Cambodia.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] Without sufficient funds UNTAC cannot operate in Cambodia. According to plan, the Armed Forces should be regrouped and partially demobilized between June and September. To do that, we need as many as 16,000 UN military personnel. There are now only some 2,000 UN troops, including demining teams. Therefore, if no additional forces arrive because of the lack of funds, how can we regroup and dissolve the

Armed Forces. The repatriation of refugees has started. But the number of those who have returned is minimal compared with the total number of refugees. A lot of money is needed to do that job. We also need a lot of money money to finance the mine clearance in the resettlement areas as well as their places of production. And we need to complete the repatriation before the elections in Cambodia. The major question now is the availability of funds.

[Question in a foreign language with Cambodian translation] Does this mean your trips are successful?

[Hun Sen] I am satisfied with the visits. As I said just now, I only explained to others about the need for funds. I only told them that the current danger comes from the lack of it. I am not a UN official. I explained the situation as a man on the scene.

[Question in a foreign language with Cambodian translation] What is your opinion about Australia's threat to withdraw troops if fighting in Cambodia continues and do you think that cease-fire violations pose a risk to the Paris agreement?

[Hun Sen] Everybody knows that the Khmer Rouge is violating the cease-fire. But taking the situation in the whole country into consideration, I do not feel these violations threaten the Paris agreement. The situation has gradually improved with the latest accord. "I have no idea about Australia's threat to pull out if fighting continues. I can tell you that if my country has peace, we would not need all of you here. It is because there is a war that we have invited all of you to come to help." Why are they here in Cambodia? To help get and keep peace. If we already have peace, I would invite you to visit as tourists and not to wield guns to protect us.

## National Assembly Holds Special Session 5-6 Apr

### Chea Sim Gives Opening Address

*BK0504093192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Report with portion recorded on opening of National Assembly's extraordinary session in Phnom Penh on 5 April]

[Summary from poor reception] On the morning of 5 April the State of Cambodia's first National Assembly solemnly opened its extraordinary session at the office of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh.

At about 0730 National Assembly members from 20 constituencies nationwide and guests of honor arrived. Among those present were "His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, and assembly member for Phnom Penh constituency; H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and assembly member for Kompong Cham constituency; H.E. General Bou Thang, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and member of Preah Vihear constituency; H.E. Chea Soth, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, and assembly member for Kandal constituency; Mrs. Men Saman, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, chairperson of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions, and assembly member for Battambang constituency; and H.E. Kong Sam-ol, member of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and assembly member for Phnom Penh constituency."

At 0745 the Presidium arrived, including "H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; H.E. Mat Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly; H.E. Nu Beng, vice chairman of the National Assembly and chairman of the assembly's Cultural and Social Affairs Commission; Chem Snguon, chairman of the assembly's Legislative Commission; and Kham Len, chairman of the assembly's Nationalities Commission."

On this occasion H.E. Chea Sim made a speech opening the session.

[Begin Chea Sim recording] Our National Assembly is meeting today to discuss a number of urgent issues relating to lawmaking, administration, and organization work. "It is obvious that these three sectors are closely interrelated and need improvements in the new phase to conform with the evolution of the country, nation, and society; this is also in accordance with the sacred request and wishes of our people."

Implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement continues to face obstacles created by warmongering forces, but is generally moving forward. "Ill-intentioned propaganda on the continued presence of Vietnamese volunteer troops in Cambodia is just an outdated pretext of the warmongering forces to continue the bloodshed on the battlefields and to hinder or delay implementation of the peace agreement. However, the deployment of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the preparations for repatriating refugees have started already before the rainy season as the government and our people have wished for.

"The State of Cambodia National Assembly and the entire Cambodian people would like to express gratitude and high appreciation for the efforts and contributions of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], who has deployed physical and intellectual efforts to serve the country, nation, people, and his children and grandchildren. The prince is certainly the father of the nation, a cool shade, and the symbol of the Cambodian people's hope.

"The National Assembly, the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and the Cambodian people certainly and unswervingly follow the prince, their clear-sighted leader. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk has always rendered justice to his children and grandchildren. His statements are based only on the truth.

"The State of Cambodia's National Assembly and the entire Cambodian people would like to express immense gratitude to the international community for striving to promote and quickly advance implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia in accordance with the Cambodian people's aspiration.

"Beloved Excellencies, prince, ladies and gentlemen, and compatriots: In the first quarter of 1992, the nation and society went through many obstacles and difficulties. Trying sociopolitical tests were borne with utmost patience. These include solving the government salary problem—a heavy burden we are facing and solving with a lofty sense of responsibility. Our government has made every effort to solve the country's financial problem. It is obvious that these efforts have not yet ensured that all the problems are solved but at least they have alleviated the problems to a large extent and become a basis for solving them.

"The National Assembly, like our government, would like to express profound gratitude to cadres, workers, employees, and people who have shown great understanding of the common problems of the country and nation in this new phase and political maturity to overcome efforts to instigate rifts and confusion in society by opportunist forces hidden behind the label of democracy. These forces have loudly shouted about corruption and our negative points. In fact, these are just their political and demagogic games to win people's sympathy in the coming election campaign.

"The fact is that in the first quarter of 1992 our government has actively fought against corruption and negativism. Many high-ranking officials, including ministers, deputy ministers, department directors, and people's committees in cities and provinces have been dismissed or transferred. Working procedure has been overhauled. This cleaning campaign will continue. Our government, which has revived society and the nation over the past 13 years, will certainly not let these gains disappear through corruption.

"The Judiciary and all levels of state authority are increasing their responsibility in solving people's complaints with a responsible spirit."

Our government dares to recognize its weak points and is determined to eliminate the negatives. "It is with this in mind that our government has requested that the National Assembly hold this extraordinary session to discuss and debate in depth new measures aimed at increasing efficiency in running the state and the country to create a clean and happy atmosphere, security, safety, and stability, and ensure great national union during the period of implementation of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement.

"This National Assembly's extraordinary session will last for two days and has the task of deciding on nine issues on the agenda." I appeal to all National Assembly members to provide appropriate constructive contributions.

"With sincere thanks for the presence of Their Excellencies, prince, ladies and gentlemen, I declare open our National Assembly's extraordinary session." [end recording]

The session went on as planned in the agenda. "At about 1100 the meeting adjourned and will continue this afternoon."

## Ministers Removed, Replacements Noted

*BK0504135492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 April, the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia continued its extraordinary session following its agenda.

At this session, National Assembly members listened and approved the bill on the establishment of the Ministry of Information and Press, and the Ministry of Culture. The assembly also approved the Council of Ministers' proposal to remove Yos Son as minister of education and Koy Buntha as minister of social affairs and invalids.

The assembly has elected Im Chhunlim as minister of education, Do Sohan as minister of social affairs and invalids, Dit Munti as minister of information and press, and Hang Chuon as minister of culture.

The National Assembly adjourned at 1600 and will continue its session on 6 April.

## Measures Against Corruption Cited

*BK0504124092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 5 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government's National Assembly convened Sunday for a closed, two-day session to reshuffle its cabinet and adopt changes to the constitution.

The minister of education and the minister of war invalids and social affairs were expected to be replaced and a new minister of propaganda and information added to the cabinet, Cambodian political sources said.

The second to last item on Sunday's agenda was the "appointment, dismissal and changing of ministers in the Council of Ministers," or cabinet.

The reason for the reshuffle was not given, but National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim delivered a strong message against corruption, inefficiency and incompetence in his speech at the opening session.

Accusing critics of the government of "making propaganda as grist for the political mill," he said top officials have taken strong measures against the siphoning off of state assets.

"Many high-ranking ministers, together with vice ministers and various provincial officials have been transferred or changed their duties" due to allegations of corruption, Chea Sim said.

"The government has made corrective efforts that will continue," and offenders will be brought before the courts, he vowed.

"Our government is brave enough to recognize our points of weakness," he said.

The National Assembly was also considering the adoption of a 10-page law concerning the press, a translation of which was not immediately available.

The constitutional amendments appeared to involve only minor changes of wording.

The Phnom Penh government has recently been trying to change its structure from communism to one that will allow a multi-party system.

Dith Munty, a high-ranking cadre in charge of propaganda in the previously communist Cambodian People's Party, was expected to be named minister of a newly created Ministry of Propaganda and Information, political sources said.

The decision was made last month and was expected to be formalized at the legislative session.

The new ministry was split from the old information and culture ministry, where the current minister, Hang Chuon, is to retain his title as minister of culture.

Dith Munty sits on the Supreme National Council (SNC), which represents Cambodian sovereignty while the country is under U.N. supervision in the run-up to elections in 1993.

The United Nations has supervisory control over the Phnom Penh government—including the sacking of ministers—but the day-to- day administration is the responsibility of Cambodians.

Im Chhun Lim, another high-ranking party official and member of the SNC, would be named education minister, replacing Yos Son, whose fate was not immediately known.

War Invalids and Social Affairs Minister Koy Buntha was due to be replaced by his deputy Do Sohan.

Koy Buntha would move to the civic action group, the National Front in an unnamed capacity, the political sources said.

The National Assembly also drew up detailed plans of its and the Council of Ministers' internal workings.

But diplomats pointed out that the documents would essentially be useless because a new Cambodian government structure is to be created after the 1993 elections.

The assembly session was scheduled for late March but was postponed, probably because of Prime Minister Hun Sen's trip abroad, diplomats said.

Hun Sen returned Friday from a two-week trip to Tokyo, Washington and Paris.

### Chea Sim Closes Session

*BK0604091592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] This morning, 6 April 1992, the State of Cambodia's first National Assembly closed its extraordinary session after busily working for a day and a half.

From 0700 onward, National Assembly members and guests of honor started to arrive at the National Assembly office and went to the conference hall which remained decorated as it was the day the National Assembly session was opened. After taking their designated seats, assembly members continued to follow and carefully discuss again various documents distributed by the assembly.

This morning assembly members continued the debate and adopted nine laws dealing with the amendment of Articles 97/3 Bis, 48, 49/2 Bis, 61, 65, and 66 of the State of Cambodia's Constitution; the law on the National Assembly's structure and proceedings; the law on the Council of Ministers' structure and procedings; the law amending Articles 7, 8, 9, and 14 of the law on the people's police ranks; the law on newspapers; the law on the procedure to implement civil code's decrees; the law on setting up the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture; and the law on changing the name and setting out the task of the Ministry of Invalids and Social Affairs.

The assembly adopted the proposal of the Council of Ministers on the dismissal of Education Minister Yos Son and Minister of Invalids and Social Affairs Koy Buntha and the replacement by Im Chhunlim as education minister and Do Sohan as minister of invalids and social affairs, and the appointment of Dit Munti as information minister and Hang Chuon as culture minister.

Closing this extraordinary session, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, stressed that:

[Begin Chea Sim recording] Greetings their excellencies, prince, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots:

Our National Assembly's extraordinary session ended today after busily working for two days. A number of urgent issues relating to the drafting of law, administration, and organization work have been carefully discussed and adopted by our assembly. This is an important result reflecting the high sense of responsibility of our National Assembly members toward the sacred wishes and interests of our people and beloved motherland in this new and historic phase.

Concerning organization work, in accordance with the Council of Ministers' proposal, our assembly voted to appoint Im Chhunlim as education minister, Do Sohan as minister of social affairs, Hang Chuon as culture minister, and Dit Munti as information minister. Furthermore, to increase state and social administrative competence, the structure of the Council of Ministers has been improved by the addition of two new ministries: Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Information.

This is needed now and is aimed at preserving national culture and heritage, entertainment, press, and knowledge of the people at a time when the light of peace has reappeared on our beloved Angkor motherland. At the same time, along with our state's socio-political liberalization policy and with the aim of elevating the people's rights, freedom, and democracy, our assembly adopted nine laws dealing with administration, press freedom, the activities of the Council of State, the National Assembly, and the Council of Ministers, and another number of important sectors. The adoption of these laws is a major contribution to consolidating social legitimacy which our assembly appeals to the masses and people to actively abide by and implement sincerely and correctly.

Our assembly also discussed some basic issues aimed at ensuring safety, stability, social order, interests, rights, freedom, honor, and dignity of each citizen in the process in which the nation and society are moving forward with multiparty democracy, market economy, and respect of human rights and, at the same time, implementing the 23 October 1991 peace agreement.

Apart from the above issues, our assembly also examined other issues affecting the implementation of the peace agreement, which is receiving assistance and support from the international community and is actively making headway. Our assembly appeals to all Cambodian parties to do their best to sincerely cooperate in implementing all the clauses of the peace agreement in various stages, particularly the implementation of the cease-fire and the dissolution of troops, which are the key issues in the transitional period in which UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces are in control.

In this respect, no one party can afford to miss carrying out obligations in accordance with the peace agreement. Failure to fulfill these obligations will certainly destroy the peace process in Cambodia and go against the sacred wishes of the Cambodian people nationwide who want peace to return quickly and to rapidly end the war which has dragged on for over 20 years. His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk is certainly a noble leader who has led the Supreme National Council [SNC] to achieve fine results to serve our beloved motherland and people. Activities attempting to hinder the SNC progress go against the common aspiration of the Cambodian people and the international community.

Our assembly welcomes the efforts of the international community which has provided support in terms of human, material, and financial resources, to the implementation of the peace agreement, particularly the efforts to dispatch the UNTAC force to Cambodia to carry out its responsible task in the transitional period aimed at ensuring security, safety, and stability of the people's life; organizing troop dissolution and organizing refugee repatriation; and establishing a neutral atmosphere for the general elections in 1993. This is an immense and historic responsibility of the United Nations.

The Cambodian people would like to express profound gratitude to various governments and people for contributing funds and showing their appropriate roles to assist the Cambodian people in this process toward peace. At the same time, the entire Cambodian society and nation would like to express a warm welcome to compatriots who are due to be repatriated. This reflects a new page of national reconciliation and a new phase of consolidation of the great national union to start rebuilding the country.

Our assembly appeals to our compatriots living in various countries the world over to look back at the motherland and bring their appropriate contributions to rebuild society and the nation, which are being united in democracy and prosperity with a firm basis of independence and sovereignty and a local and foreign policy in accordance with the common tendency of the current era. More than ever, we, Cambodians, need united and unified national forces to implement the peace agreement in its entirety and to open a new phase of national reconstruction with liberal democracy on the basis of multiparty and market economy.

The National Assembly would also like to welcome the results of the visit by H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, to Japan, the United States, and France. This visit has contributed to advancing the implementation of the peace agreement through these countries' financial contributions to UN operations in Cambodia. It is also a step in expanding the relations and cooperation between Cambodia and Japan, Cambodia and the United States, and between Cambodia and France.

Their excellencies, prince, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: The above is the result and common view coming out from our National Assembly's extraordinary session, which did its utmost to serve the interests of the nation and our people in a new phase full of lofty responsibility toward history. Whatever the sacred aspiration and interests of our people are, our assembly has to discuss and find appropriate answers dealing in particular with the concerns of people and compatriots.

On the daily life, security, and social safety, our assembly has made several recommendations to the government to discuss and find measures to solve problems on a timely basis. The government's responsibility in the current circumstances is great; however our state's capacity remains limited. This is the basic problem on which our assembly calls on our masses and people to be patient and understanding, and to continue providing cooperation and common support through encouragement so that together we continue to brave and overcome countless difficulties in the process toward peace.

It is obvious that right now some issues, particularly the daily life and budget issues, are being faced and tackled by our government with difficulties. This is the most trying test. In all situations our government pledges to do everything to improve the situation and fulfill its obligations toward our masses and people. With a high resolution, our government will hold aloft the banner to fight against negative phenomena and corruption in society and the nation through general and concrete measures.

Rejoicing over the outcome of our National Assembly's extraordinary session, on behalf of our assembly, I would like to wish longevity and good health to the prince, father of the nation, and his royal consort, so that they become a cool shade for all the children nationwide in this new and historic phase. It is on this auspicious occasion that I would like to wish their excellencies, the prince, ladies and gentlemen, and all compatriots the five Buddhist blessings.

I declare the National Assembly's extraordinary session closed. [applause] [end recording]

On this occasion H.E. Chea Sim also signed various documents the first National Assembly's extraordinary session has adopted with the participation of assembly members from all 20 constituencies.

The first National Assembly's extraordinary session closed in a happy atmosphere. Members of the National Assembly, like guests of honor, left the conference hall imbued with joy over the brilliant results achieved by the first National Assembly extraordinary session. The assembly firmly pledges that upon returning to their respective localities and units, they will disseminate deeply among strata of the people the outcome of the first National Assembly's extraordinary session and also pledges to implement these results successfully and with high efficiency as recommended by H.E. Chea Sim when closing this extraordinary session. This is aimed at contributing to building a Cambodia with peace, national reconciliation, and development to ensure the people's life and well-being.

## Mixed Military Group Meets 3 April

*BK0404144092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] A mixed military group held its meeting at 0900 on the morning of 3 April under the chairmanship of Generals Sanderson and Loridon. Representatives of the Armed Forces of all Cambodian factions also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused mainly on the implementation of the cease-fire in place, the settlement of the armed clashes in Kompong Thom Province, and the demining work.

Representatives of each faction expressed opinion on issues put on the agenda. Some proposals and requests were also made.

A representative of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] condemned, protested, and demanded that the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] faction immediately end its truce violations and correctly implement the Paris peace agreement. This FUNCINPEC representative informed the meeting about the violations committed by the DK faction in attacking two FUNCINPEC positions in late March. That is, on 21 March, a unit of the Khmer Rouge's 912th Division attacked a FUNCINPEC position at Romeat in Varin District where a troop center was being arranged, causing three to be killed and seven wounded. The DK troops also seized two tractors. In another attack, a group of Khmer Rouge forces seized a FUNCINPEC position at (Phum Chrung) 20 km east of O Smach.

A lieutenant general representing the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] agreed to allow the other factions to use the CPAF radio in contacting their respective commands. However, the [words indistinct] and frequencies must be under strict control of the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

At the same time, the UNTAC distributed to all meeting participants the documents of the UN military observation teams in Battambang, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Kompong Thom Provinces concerning the Khmer Rouge's new activities in planting mines in Anlung Mean in Battambang Province, areas on a stretch of road leading from (Phum Ream) to Tani in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, and an eight km stretch on Route 12 from Chi Ok to O Pou.

The meeting did not approve the DK representative's proposal that two more assistants be added to the mixed military group in Kompong Thom Province.

Representatives of three other groups condemned and demanded that the DK faction stop its pressure and moral threats against representatives of the three groups on mission in Pailin sector to enable them to work effectively.

## Son Sann 25 March Interview Reported

*BK0604095592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Interview with His Excellency Son Sann, president of Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council, by unidentified station correspondent on 25 March in Phnom Penh—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a representative of the Voice of the Khmer. My respects to Your Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency the KPNLF president for granting me this interview in Phnom Penh. In my contacts with our Cambodian people, I have noticed that our compatriots have many worries, particularly concerning their personal security, especially the security of those who support the KPNLF with your excellency as the president. Can you tell us whether you have any measures to help ensure security for our Cambodian citizens, especially those who are KPNLF members inside Cambodia?

[Son Sann] First of all, I would like to tell my compatriots that generally we human beings need food, medicine, and religion. Such needs cannot be quelled by force. Our compatriots want something that they have lacked for a long time. The majority of our compatriots thus want freedom, democracy, human rights, and justice. For this reason, a growing number of our compatriots are attracted by the KPNLF because they know very well that the front is righteous, cherishes freedom, advocates liberal democracy, and worships Buddhism. This is why our long-yearning compatriots have joined the KPNLF. However, we also know that in so doing they have sometimes been mistreated. First, they were intimidated. Some were threatened to the point that they no longer dared to stay home and had to leave their families. Some were taken away for interrogation and detained. However, these hungry compatriots have not been cowed. They continue to struggle. Lately, some of them were bullied, taken away for interrogation, and even shot at. The compatriots must have heard about all of that.

I am very sorry about it all because I wish to see our compatriots, our nation united. I do not want our compatriots to have disharmony with one another. Therefore, in my opinion, those in power should protect the compatriots in general. Those who are strong should protect the weaker. Those who have power should protect the unfortunate, the poor, the needy. It is not right to bully them. Seeing the contrary, I am so unhappy. This is because our nation can reconcile only when there is no injustice, no menace. I have informed all compatriots on many occasions that only when our nation is united can we achieve durable peace. Therefore, we should not do anything to undermine national unity. We should do everything for our compatriots to unite.

For this reason, I would like to ask all compatriots, particularly those in power to please understand human rights, to understand our compatriots' hunger for human rights. Please do not threaten or bully them. What is the use of mistreating them? Such an act will only bring bad consequences and delay and hamper national reconciliation. It is not right to intimidate the people into disliking human rights and democracy. That is a no-no. I have noticed that whenever our compatriots were initimidated, they would fight back even more vigorously. I must tell all compatriots that due to such menace, more of our compatriots have now joined the KPNLF. In the past, they came in by the hundreds or the thousands. Now they are coming in by the tens of thousands.

Naturally, we should be delighted to see that more and more compatriots have joined our ranks. Of course I am happy that these compatriots are so brave to struggle for freedom and to hunger for human rights, liberal democracy, and Buddhism. Although we benefit from such an action, it is not our greatest desire, which is for our nation to unite. I do not want any disharmony among our fellow compatriots. I want to see the stronger to protect the weaker and both of them understand each other so that all can join hands in rebuilding our nation. This is my desire.

I want to tell you that threats and initimidation do not stop our compatriots from coming to us. On the contrary, they can only cause more of our compatriots to come and join us. I must admire and salute this courage displayed by our compatriots who have been joining us in a growing number. And I would like to inform you in just a few words that UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has already arrived and its main task is to protect human rights.

[Correspondent] Can your excellency explain what measures UNTAC, which is coming gradually to Cambodia, will have for protecting human rights?

[Son Sann] To my knowledge, according to the statement of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, and those of General Sanderson and the other officials of the UNTAC forces, UNTAC has come to oversee the implementation of the agreement worked out by the big five which was accepted and signed by our four Cambodian factions in Paris on 23 October 1991. That is one thing.

Another thing is that UNTAC will see to it that an election is held to choose a Constituent Assembly. This is because UNTAC and the big five or the United Nations realize that a Constituent Assembly is needed as a condition for us Cambodians to unite as a nation to be recognized by the United Nations. This is the second point.

Third, UNTAC's task in Cambodia is to create a neutral atmosphere throughout our country so that free general elections can be held.

Fourth, UNTAC comes here at the request of all of us Cambodians. Our four Cambodian factions have asked UNTAC to come to help guarantee Cambodia's sovereignty so that Cambodia would not be a subject of any other country. Sovereignty means that we are fully independent in the transitional period progressing toward the establishment of a new country recognized by the United Nations.

Fifth, we have been told that the Cambodian problem is our own problem. Therefore, if the leaders of the four Cambodian factions do not come in and cooperate with UNTAC, there is no way for UNTAC to make Cambodians reconcile with one another. Only if Cambodians want to reconcile can there be reconciliation. For this reason, I have always urged all compatriots to strive so that our nation can be united. Our nation becoming united according to the wish of the United Nations, of UNTAC, constitutes the prerequisite for us to bring about lasting peace in Cambodia in accordance with the aspiration of our Cambodian people in general.

Sixth, the will of all four Cambodian factions is to fully implement the solution that we signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. This will is not only in words. It must also be reflected in our deeds, in the way we cooperate with one another among all of our four Cambodian factions so that it is obvious to all that we wish for the full implementation of the solution we signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. Only by so doing will the international community come to help us, to support us in all aspects of our national reconstruction. Without that will, without the intention of uniting and reconciling to implement the big-five solution, foreign countries will not help us. This is the sixth point of UNTAC.

Seventh, UNTAC announced that Cambodia must have unity. We know, we understand this very well. Since 1970 we have been in discord because we lacked mutual understanding. This was because certain individuals, certain factions sought only personal powers or personal interests. That practice has toppled the future of Cambodia. For this reason, UNTAC has told us that we must not be divided. When Cambodians are divided, as we can see in our past, other countries and not Cambodia would benefit. That is what UNTAC has pointed out. Recently, on 19 March, Mr. Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, made a statement on human rights and freedom, the principles that we all wish to have. You must have seen or heard about it over the radio, in the newspapers, and in the KPNLF bulletin. He said that the human rights situation in Cambodia is the first duty of UNTAC. He said that all of us Cambodians must understand that he is dutybound to defend human rights everywhere in Cambodia, in all districts and regions. This is a foundation on which the Cambodian problem can be solved. He further said that UNTAC is dutybound to spread the human rights principles and create an environment in which human rights and fundamental freedom can be generally respected in Cambodia. He went on to say that he would work out a program to educate our Cambodian compatriots in human rights, to educate the common people in the basics of human rights. There are many kinds of human rights, dear compatriots. First of all, human rights dictate that man has the right to live. No one can deprive him of his life without cause. Human rights fill up an entire book. I only dwell on any human rights that you yearn for, that you know. Human rights dictate that man has the freedom to travel and the freedom to believe in religions. We Cambodians have the freedom to practice Buddhism since most of us are Buddhist. Those who are Muslims have the right to practice Islam. Those who are Christian have the right to practice Christianity. Since more than 70 percent of our people are Buddhist [words indistinct] despite the fact that a regime you know well tried to suppress religion, religions today are blossoming. Human rights say we can travel any time. You cannot force people to do whatever they do not want to do or you would seriously breach human rights. Human rights means that if you like a faction you can join that faction. You have the freedom to associate. If you want liberal democracy and Buddhism, your desire must be respected. There are freedom of travel, of worship, of expression, of press. These are just a small number of human rights. These human rights fill an entire book. UNTAC will make that public and will educate our people so that they will know their rights.

Mr. Akashi said on 19 March that UNTAC has the special duty of supervising and investigating the human rights situation in Cambodia. If anyone violates human rights and UNTAC is informed of that, UNTAC will investigate. After investigation, if it is found that punishment is due, punishment will be meted out. Upon arrival, UNTAC has specific plans to deal with all of that. [passage indistinct]

## Kompong Thom Cease-Fire Violations Reported

*BK0404015292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] The cease-fire in Kompong Thom was to have been implemented from 0000 on 1-2 April. Only a few hours after that, however, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side carried out activities in systematic violation of it:

1. On 2 April at 1400 [0700 GMT], an aircraft carried artillery shells, B-40 rockets, and all types of mines to the headquarters of the 5th Division in Sala Visai and from there to position E-16 on Route 12 of the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh side.

2. On the same day, at 1430, Vietnamese troops and those of the Phnom Penh side—Division 179, E-89 regiment, and the Prey Veng provincial forces—attacked liberated villages of Democratic Kampuchea in L'ak and (Voa Yeay).

These are the latest violations of the cease-fire in Kompong Thom by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea would like the UN peacekeeping force and the four Cambodian parties to carefully conduct an on-the-spot inspection of these violations. We also ask the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the four Cambodian parties to check and ensure that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side do not bring in ammunition and weapons through Kompong Thom and through airfields to continue the war of aggression.

### Further UNTAC Inspection Needed

*BK0404023292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Reports from Kompong Thom say that on the morning of 2 April when a joint control team of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the four Cambodian parties in Kompong Thom were conducting inspection task on the implementation of the cease-fire at an artillery position of the Phnom Penh side in Kompong Thom, soldiers of the Phnom Penh side at that position pointed their guns at this joint control team and threatened to take away film and cameras.

This is an act violating the cease-fire agreement, the Paris agreement, and the right of the joint control team of the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties. It is requested that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council solve this problem properly in order to ensure effective implementation of the inspection task.

## Indonesia

### Ministers Interviewed on East Timor Issue

#### Foreign Minister Alatas

*BK0504153192 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 28 Mar 92 pp 22, 23*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas by TEMPO correspondents A. Margana, Yopie Hidayat, Sandra Hamid, and Fikri Jufri on East Timor issue and Indonesia-Portugal relations in Jakarta on 21 March]

[Text] [TEMPO] We heard that Foreign Minister Pinheiro has proposed a dialogue to settle the East Timor issue. What do you think of that?

[Alatas] Foreign Minister Pinheiro spoke of the dialogue as if so far there had been no dialogue. There have already been intensive and continuous dialogues. Representatives of Indonesia and Portugal have held talks under the auspices of our permanent representative at the United Nations and the then-UN secretary general since 1983.

[TEMPO] But so far there has been no option acceptable to Portugal?

[Alatas] There were two options to choose from in handling the East Timor issue. Initially a fair option was almost decided upon—one that was agreed upon by the two sides and the United Nations. But Portugal constantly rejected this. I am sorry to say so. This is a fact. This was our own experience.

[TEMPO] Can you cite an example?

[Alatas] In 1987 a memorandum of understanding was finalized where three sides agreed to send a UN mission to East Timor. The objective was to allow the UN team to witness the process of general elections there and hold direct discussions with residents in East Timor. Without any explanation, Portugal withdrew at the last minute. Then Portugal agreed to send its parliamentary delegation to East Timor last September. They cancelled the decision made after two years of negotiations just because we rejected the inclusion of a female journalist in the delegation. In fact, it was clearly written in the accord that the Indonesian Government has the right to reject any journalist that it does not want.

[TEMPO] Can we say that Portugal is deliberately adopting an attitude of advancing and withdrawing?

[Alatas] I am sure that Foreign Minister Pinheiro is sincere about finding a solution to the East Timor issue. However, perhaps there was something that made them change his mind at the last minute. Don't you think it is weird that a visit by a parliamentary delegation was cancelled just because of an Australian female journalist?

[TEMPO] Do you mean to say that there are differences of opinion among Portuguese insiders?

[Alatas] I can say so without having any intention to meddle in Portugal's internal affairs. This is because past experience has shown that they later changed their minds after agreeing to a consensus.

[TEMPO] Who made them change?

[Alatas] I do not want to point a finger at anyone. Let's take the president as an example. A president can speak his own mind and has the authority. Members of parliament can also voice a different opinion.

[TEMPO] After going through several bad experiences, does Indonesia want to reject Pinheiro's proposal to revive a dialogue?

[Alatas] In an interview with TEMPO's correspondent, Foreign Minister Pinheiro called on us to look to the future. He also said that he prefers settling the East Timor issue through negotiations without attaching any conditions. But it is complicated because before anything else, he himself attached the condition that representatives of the East Timor people must be involved in the negotiations.

[TEMPO] Is the possibility of holding negotiations ruled out?

[Alatas] First, I would like to ask: Which East Timorese? The silent majority, which numbers in the hundreds of thousands, or FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] and those who oppose the integration [Jakarta's official term referring to East Timor's merger into Indonesia in 1976]?

[TEMPO] So?

[Alatas] If Lisbon still wants a dialogue, the format should remain the same as that which we have used in the past.

[TEMPO] If Portugal wants high-level talks such as those at the foreign ministerial level, will you attend?

[Alatas] I will attend, so long as the format is made up of three parties: Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the UN secretary general.

[TEMPO] If Portugal insists on the inclusion of representatives of the East Timorese in the dialogue ...?

[Alatas] There will be no dialogue.

[TEMPO] Some people are of the opinion that this lengthy problem should be suspended. After all, East Timor has officially become an Indonesian province.

[Alatas] There were two options to choose from in handling the East Timor issue: finding a settlement, or letting it remain as it is now. But I don't want to be pestered. However, if the second alternative were chosen, Indonesian diplomats would have to explain the East Timor issue in every existing international forum. Such meetings should in fact be used to discuss other, more important issues. Therefore, the East Timor issue is like a pebble in the shoes. It is not a big problem but is continously irritating. It would be such a pity if, because of this issue, Indonesia could not play a bigger role in the world.

[TEMPO] How does the world community rate Indonesia's position on the East Timor issue following the Dili incident?

[Alatas] Actually, following the November 12 incident the international community raised such issues as human rights and the right of East Timorese to self determination. However, this does not mean that there is drastic friction in relations between the Indonesian Government and other governments.

[TEMPO] If the issue of a voting were introduced at the UN General Assembly, would Indonesia's position be weaker than in the period prior to the incident?

[Alatas] I am confident our position would not be worse than in 1982. I even think it would be better.

[TEMPO] Foreign Minister Pinheiro is of the opinion that the Indonesian Government is afraid of holding a referendum.

[Alatas] The question is not whether Indonesia is afraid or not. It is about our integrity as a nation. But I am confident that even if a referendum were held now, the majority of the East Timorese would support Indonesia. For us the decolonization process has been completed. Indonesia has already given a chance to Portugal and even invited her to come and solve the problem together.

[TEMPO] At the moment in Dili and Jakarta, court trials of those who opposed East Timor integration into Indonesia are underway. They are charged with subversion and threatened with the maximum death penalty. Would this affect your efforts to obtain a good opinion of Indonesia?

[Alatas] This is a dilemma question and there is a difference of opinion here. For Indonesia, East Timor has been integrated, the East Timorese are Indonesian citizens. According to the definition under national law, it is very clear that they are carrying out a separatist effort. We have a law for this.

[TEMPO] What about in foreign countries?

[Alatas] Yes, in foreign countries there is still the opinion that East Timor has not been formally recognized as a province of Indonesia. So they see the demonstrations and protests as part of a peaceful political attack. To them no one can do anything about such things.

### Portugal's Pinheiro Comments

*BK0404145992 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 28 Mar 92 p 24*

["Excerpts" of TEMPO correspondent Lisa Sallusto's interview with Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister Joao de Deus Rogado Salvador Pinheiro in Lisbon on 26 March 1992]

[Text] [Sallusto] What would Portugal like to do now to settle the East Timor issue?

[Pinheiro] The only way is to hold very serious talks. Just call them a dialogue. This must be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. Anyway, the dialogue must include representatives of the East Timor people. I mean talks without preconditions. The results will have to be accepted by both sides without exception.

[Sallusto] Your proposal that the East Timorese be included will certainly be hard for Indonesia to accept? What are your comments?

[Pinheiro] If the Arabs and Israelis can sit at the same table and talk, I am convinced it is possible to sit with the East Timorese at the same table.

[Sallusto] What efforts have you made before the start of your proposed dialogue?

[Pinheiro] I have sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali. It was underlined that Portugal was ready to start the talks.

[Sallusto] Is this the official policy of the Portuguese Government or simply the Portuguese foreign affairs minister?

[Pinheiro] We now have a strong government that will be in power until 1996. I and other senior officials have approved this step. In fact, we have many alternatives. Portugal can simply use its existing power within the European Community to pressure Indonesia and to ask other countries to impose sanctions against it.

[Sallusto] Would it be so easy for Portugal to exert pressure on the Indonesian Government?

[Pinheiro] Yes. But, Portugal has not pursued this line of action. We prefer urging Indonesia to hold talks. The willingness or unwillingness to talk is now Indonesia's.

[Sallusto] Do you mean you will use Portugal's position as (interim) president of the EC to pressure Indonesia?

[Pinheiro] We always distinguish Portugal's position as an EC member from that of EC president. If EC channels are to be used, Portugal as president will first seek full support or a consensus from all members. At present, the majority of EC members support Portugal. Thus, it would be possible to seek a consensus that is favorable to us.

[Sallusto] So, Portugal appears to be using every way to pressure Indonesia. Is that so?

[Pinheiro] We will use all the power at our disposal only after we think efforts to settle the issue through talks like the one we have proposed is going nowhere.

[Sallusto] Earlier, you mentioned representatives of the East Timor people. Which people do you mean? Are they the majority of the East Timorese who support Indonesia or the minority who are opposed to integration [official term referring to East Timor's merger into Indonesia in 1976]?

[Pinheiro] All parties linked to this matter should be present. They must all be allowed to express their true views, both those who oppose and those who favor the integration. Perhaps, there are those with other alternatives. So far, only two camps have emerged—those favoring total integration or independence. In my opinion, there are millions [as published] of alternatives in addition to the present two.

[Sallusto] Can you mention one?

[Pinheiro] I do not know any now. But, such alternatives would emerge and may be acceptable to all sides.

[Sallusto] Would one of them be Portugal's desire to return to East Timor?

[Pinheiro] Portugal does not have any claim on East Timor. We have no intention of returning there. Portugal would simply like to see the decolonization process finalized.

[Sallusto] Some observers believe these efforts are designed to serve Portugal's internal political interests, to enable the government to gain greater popular support. What are your comments?

[Pinheiro] You are here and can see how enthusiastic the Portuguese people are over the East Timor issue. They are very sensitive. Thus, my proposal for such a dialogue is, on the contrary, unpopular. The Portuguese people want the government to take stronger political action. However, the path towards dialogue is being pursued because we are serious.

[Salluto] The Portuguese simply left East Timor when a civil erupted in the territory. Why is Portugal suddenly showing interest in the East Timor issue after a 17-year lapse?

[Pinheiro] Indeed, on the one hand, Portugal has been held responsible for its gross mistake. We made an error and behaved badly. However, this could in no way be used to justify Indonesia's equally erroneous action. For example, there were mass killings during the civil war.

This is why I do not like to talk about the past. We would do better to look forward to the future and forget the past. Thus, I would be deeply dissapointed if Indonesia rejects this proposal which I consider to be constructive.

[Sallusto] Don't you realize that Indonesia has developed East Timor from a Portuguese colony having an annual per-capita income of only U.S. $40 into a region with an annual per-capita income of U.S. $360?

[Pinheiro] If so, why is the Indonesian Government always afraid of holding a referendum? In my opinion, we cannot make simple comparisons. This is not the essence of the present issue.

## Alatas Says 'No Fixed Date' on Dutch Visit

*BK0404095092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0843 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 4 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Saturday that the planned visit of Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broek was "an idea that should be discussed together.

"So far no fixed date on the visit has been agreed by the two sides," he told ANTARA, adding that it would be much beter if both Indonesia and Holland first tried to find the most suitable date for the visit.

Alatas said van Den Broek expressed the wish to visit Jakarta during a telephone conversation with him recently.

However, nothing was mentioned about the restoration of the Dutch aid to Indonesia in the conversation, Alatas said.

"He only told me that the visit would be aimed at discussing cooperation in other fields which could be fostered in line with Indonesia's wishes," said the foreign minister.

Alatas made the statement in response to press reports that van Den Broek possibly would visit Indonesia by the end of the month to discuss the restoration of his country's development assistance to Indonesia.

Jakarta announced last week that it would stop receiving Dutch aid as the country frequently used it as an instrument of political intimidation on Indonesia.

The Indonesian Government also demanded the dissolution of the 24-year old Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), a donor consortium led by Holland.

The Hague for the 1992/93 fiscal year through the IGGI scheme provided assistance of 91.3 million U.S. dollars, far behind the World Bank's 1,630 million U.S. dollars, Japan's 1,320 million U.S. dollars, and Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) 1,100 million U.S. dollars.

### Projects Unaffected by Cut

*BK0404082592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0452 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 03 (ANTARA)—Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance, and Industry Radius Prawiro has reiterated that the stop of Dutch aid would not affect existing projects very much because the aid amount is small and Indonesia could finance the projects by itself.

"We have the money and ways to take over the projects," Radius said in an interview with the RCTI [Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia] television network Friday night.

He said the government had now reviewed data on the projects and soon would decide which of them are to be continued and which stopped.

There are three possibilities: some important projects would be continued with aid funds from non-Dutch sources, other important projects continued with Indonesia's own funds, and unimportant projects stopped altogether.

Meanwhile, Dutch experts working in the projects could be employed longer with Indonesia paying their costs whenever their expertise is truly needed and irreplaceable, the minister said.

In reply to a question on the Netherlands' decision to stop scholarships for Indonesians studying in the Netherlands, the minister said the government had made a list of the students and ordered the minister of finance to set aside funds to cover the scholarships.

On the occasion, the minister asked the students to go on their study and not to worry about the possible exodus of Indonesian students leaving the Netherlands.

He further made it clear that the government would not take over the Dutch-aid given to the Indonesian non-governmental organisations.

## Laos

### Kaysone Phomvihan Pays Official Visit to DPRK

*BK0404133392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], this morning left Vientiane for an official friendship visit to the DPRK at the invitation of Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the DPRK. During the visit, Kaysone Phomvihan will meet with Korean leaders to strengthen the traditional relations of friendship between the parties, states, and peoples of the two countries. He will also attend the celebration of President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday anniversary and 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Accompanying President Kaysone Phomvihan are Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the party Central Committee and director of Office of the Party Central Committee; Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy chief of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Board and deputy foreign minister; and Phongsavat Boupha, LPDR ambassador to the DPRK.

In the farewell ceremony at Wattai Airport, the national anthem was played and the president inspected guard of honor. The personalities who went to see the president off at the airport were Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party central committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]; Khamtai Siphandon, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and prime minister of the LPDR; members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and party Central Committee; ministers and deputy ministers; SPA members; and a large number of high-level cadres from various ministries.

Chang Yong-chun, DPRK ambassador to Laos, and Huang Guocai, PRC ambassador to Laos, were also present.

### Government Accepts German Technical Assistance

*BK0404131492 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 4 (KPL) - The government of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] has agreed to accept technical assistance of 250,000 marks from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This was indicated in a note of Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut handed over to German ambassador to Laos Klaus Sonksen on April 1, 1992 by acting director of the Foreign Ministry's Department 2, Don Somvalachit.

The fund will be used in study of development projects and in provision of experts to Laos.

### Rice Aid From WFP Expected To Arrive Soon

*BK0304110092 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 3 (KPL)—Some 8,000 tons of rice relief from the World Food Programme [WFP] are expected to reach Laos in April shortly after the traditional Lao new year, and now preparation is being made for immediate delivery of the rice relief to last year's natural disaster-affected provinces in central and southern parts of the country, disclosed Mr. Sengdala Tiamtisak, deputy director of the Lao Transportation Service Comhany.

The company has been awarded the contract to deliver the emergency aid to the central and southern provinces where victims of drought and floods last year are waiting for relief.

The company management has already coordinated in terms of principle and practice with the authorities concerned, such as the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, World Food Programme in Laos, and the provincial committees to receive the relief aid in the three provinces of Khammouane, Savannakhet, and Champassak.

The rice delivery will be made into two batches, 4,000 tons each. The first batch will be for the areas in most urgent need as proposed by the provinces.

Sengdala said the first batch will reach all the destination points within 30 days.

### Announcement on Contamination of Mekong River

*BK0404115492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Apr 92*

["Urgent announcement" issued by the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction; date not given]

[Text] The Mekong River Organization in Bangkok, Thailand, reported that a harmful chemical substance had been accidentally released into the Chi River, a tributary of the Mun River in Thailand's Ubon Ratchathani Province. A study reveals that the chemical substance has contaminated the water in the Mun River and is expected to flow into the Mekong River on Friday 3 April [words indistinct].

Therefore, the people living along the bank of the Mekong River from Sanasomboun District of Champassak Province, opposite the mouth of the Mun River, down to Khong District are prohibited from drinking and using the water from the Mekong River from today until 10 April.

## Philippines

### NDF Calls Rescue of Barnes Police 'Gimmick'

*HK0204082492 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Apr 92 p 2*

[By Jimmy Perez and Noel Bartolome]

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] said yesterday the kidnapping of American executive Michael Barnes and his rescue from his alleged rebel kidnappers were part of a police plan to picture communist rebels as criminals and human rights violators.

The NDF said Alfredo de Leon, a former communist rebel who was expelled from the movement before his capture last year, was "allowed" by the military to escape and lead a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate.

Frank Fernandez, NDF spokesman, said prior to the Barnes kidnapping, the Philippine National Police had been linking communist rebels to criminal activities such as drug trafficking, illegal logging and kidnapping for ransom of prominent businessmen.

The NDF said the rescue of Barnes was a "gimmick" intended to "legitimize" the killing of communist rebels operating in Manila.

Oplan [operational plan] Gemini, which the NDF said was the master plan to rescue Barnes from his alleged rebel kidnappers, was drafted by the police and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The police denied the charges, calling it an attempt by the communists to deny responsibility for the activities of the Red Scorpion group. Police had said the Red Scorpion is an elite unit of the New People's Army [NPA].

Chief Superintendent Roger Deinla, commander of Task Force Gemini which rescued Barnes, also said they have found evidence to prove that NPA units receive funds regularly from De Leon's group.

He said a letter allegedly written by Leopoldo Mabilangan alias Ka [comrade] Hector, chief of the NPA Banahaw Command, was found at a rebel safehouse in Las Pinas where Barnes was rescued.

Deinla said the letter dated Dec. 18, 1991 was addressed to Ka Rommel, allegedly one of the codenames of De Leon, and signed by Ka Che, reportedly an alias of Mabilangan.

He added that one of the captured rebels, Angelito Salanio, had admitted he was a member of the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

### Official Attacks U.S. Embassy Survey on Elections

*HK0404023192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Text] Press Secretary Horacio Paredes has assailed the United States for allegedly meddling in the country's internal affairs. This followed a U.S. Embassy press release on a survey of the presidential candidates. In a statement, Paredes said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner has no business in Philippine affairs and that only Filipinos are entitled to criticize a Philippine president and not the United States. Paredes asked why the survey was released to the press if it was an internal survey. It can be recalled that presidential candidate Ramon Mitra Jr., who according to Malacanang is an American boy, leads the said U.S. Embassy survey.

### Malacanang Drops Subic Drydock Issue

*HK0604063092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 5 Apr 92 pp 1, 2*

[Text] Malacanang does not expect the United States to leave the last remaining drydock in Subic, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said yesterday.

With the two drydocks already towed away to serve other U.S. bases elsewhere in the world, Paredes said the Philippine government has long accepted the reality that the third drydock would also be taken away.

"Forget the drydocks. I don't think any drydock would be left behind," he said.

Because of this, Paredes said there would no longer be any need for the Philippines to do business with the U.S. Navy which would have been the beneficiary of that drydock.

The drydock at nearby Philippine Shipyard and Engineering Corp. is meant only for commercial ships and cannot service military vessels like aircraft carriers.

Last Friday, Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon, newly appointed chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority [SMBA], said the drydock is not the "be-all and end-all" of Subic.

He said the more important thing is to attract foreign investors who can do business in the area.

Gordon said, however, the SMBA which he heads will still negotiate with the Americans on the removables that can be left behind and used for the government's conversion program.

He confirmed reports that the SMBA would be in a better position to talk to the Americans. "The Americans are not ready to deal with anybody unless he is authorized by the President," Gordon said.

Praising Mrs. Aquino for her decision to appoint him SBMA head, Gordon said this shows political leaders from opposing parties can still work together for the common good.

To signify their new-found unity, Gordon said he has invited the President to visit Olongapo again.

But he added, "I hope she will be there not to campaign."

Gordon said Mrs. Aquino can play an important role in the conversion program even after her term ends this year. "She'd be an excellent ambassadress in attracting investors," he said.

Expressing confidence in Subic's bright future, Gordon said Singapore, which is smaller than Olongapo and Subic, was able to make itself richer than the entire Philippines.

With the formation of a national consensus to protect the facilities and create the environment needed to attract investors, Gordon said Olongapo might well exceed what Singapore has achieved.

## UN Contingent To Help Cambodian Navy

*HK0604062192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Apr 92 p 7*

[Text] The Philippine contingent to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia will be assigned to handle the country's navy, Foreign Under-secretary Pablo Suarez said.

"As far as I know, we're the only ones tapped to handle the deployment and mobilization of the navy there," Suarez said.

He said those selected to join the UN contingent will be given a crash course on the Cambodian situation as well as language course [as published].

The Armed Forces has been receiving commendation for the performance of the Filipinos assigned with the UN peacekeeping force sent to Iraq.

"They are doing well there and the military has been receiving commendation for their performance," Suarez said.

The military has strongly favored the sending of Filipino soliders for peacekeeping duties, because it would have them international exposure and enhance the country's image.

The troops will be receiving $150 a day (P[Philippine peso]4,000) plus free lodging. Members of the contingent from the armed forces Army, Navy, and Air Force [as published].

## Ramos Warns on Japanese Military Role in Asia

*HK0604083692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 6 April 92*

[Text] Manila, April 6 (AFP)—Philippine presidential candidate Fidel Ramos said here Monday that Japan should further expand assistance to other Asian nations, but must not undertake any military role in the region.

The former defense secretary, one of the frontrunners in the May 11 elections, said "helping to police" the Middle East may have been been accepted by the Japanese people, but Asia will be a different matter.

"Any military initiative in this part of the world is going to be misconstrued, since it was this part of the world that suffered from the expansionism of Japan in World War II," he said.

Japan brutally occupied the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations during the war, but it has since become the largest investor and aid donor in the region.

"I think it is in the economic and development field that Japan can continue to prove that she is a friend of this part of the world," Ramos said in a press forum after a speech devoted to his foreign policy if elected.

Japanese official and private aid should be increased to help in "the stabilization of this region," Ramos said.

He said his administration would focus on developing economic links with Japan and the newly-industrializing economies of East Asia, and the "recasting" of ties with the United States, Manila's former colonial ruler.

The nearly century-long U.S. military presence in the Philippines ends in December when the last troops leave Subic Naval Base after the two allies failed to agree an extension of the lease.

Ramos is President Corazon Aquino's handpicked successor, but is facing six other candidates.

His major opponents are House Speaker Ramon Mitra and right-wing opposition leader Eduardo Cojuangco, while the minor candidates include former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Ramos said he would personally lead investment missions abroad and reshape Philippine diplomacy to focus on ways of boosting the country's economy.

## Aquino Hopes Muslims Do Not Support Libyan Call

*HK0604111592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1031 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[By Dick Synchongo]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has expressed hope that Muslim Filipinos will not have any problems regarding the situation in Libya. In a press statement, the president said that the government does not expect any problem from our Muslim brothers. She added that it is still possible for Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to seek a peaceful solution to this situation. This reaction by Malacanang follows a call by Qadhdhafi to the world's Muslims to support Libya's refusal to surrender two Libyans suspected of the 1988 Pan Am bombing in Scotland.

## Muslim Representative Urges Manglapus To Resign

*HK0604065292 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[By Jojo Ismael]

[Text] Macapanton Abas Jr., chairman of the All Muslim Assembly and a senatorial candidate of the Liberal Party-Filipino Democratic Party, said that Secretary Raul Manglapus of the Department of Foreign Affairs should resign in light of his comment that the Philippines is ready to expel Libyan diplomats from the country in compliance with the UN resolution against Libya.

According to Abas, the Philippines has no basis for intervening in the conflict. He added that Manglapus' plan is a very dangerous undertaking. Abas said that since Libya did not issue any injunction against the Philippines, the country should not get involved in this sensitive issue.

Abas also said that there is a possibility that the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] may take steps against the Aquino administration since Libya is the primary supporter of Nur Misuari, the MNLF's chairman. It was also Libya which pursuaded the MNLF to discontinue its armed struggle in Mindanao and to respect the political process laid out by the Tripoli agreement.

## Rebels' Destabilizing Capacity Downplayed

*HK0604064692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 Apr 92 p 10*

[By Guy Dumat-ol]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia yesterday reiterated that no group has the capability to disrupt the May 11 elections by grabbing power.

Abadia belittled the existing ultra-rightist force, saying that only 24 renegade officers and men belonging to the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] (RAM) core group have remained underground [as published].

Aside from renegade Lt. Col. Gregorio Gringo Honasan, ex-Commodore Domingo Calajate and former Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, the RAM core group comprise merely of [as publsihed] nine other renegade officers and a dozen enlisted men, Abadia said.

"We do not see any further attempt (by rebel soldiers) to destabilize the country," Abadia said.

Abadia made the statements less than a week after Honasan, considered the country's most wanted man, easily escaped the raid conducted by police and military intelligence authorities in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, less than two kilometers away from Armed Forces headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

The raided house, which belongs to Bingo and Mona Estrada, relatives of Nacionalista Party vice presidential bet Eva Estrada Kalaw, is also a stone's throw away from Camp Atienza, home of the AFP's 51st Engineering Brigade.

Abadia has vowed to bag Honasan, who carries a P [Philippine peso] 5-million reward for his capture, before the May 11 elections.

Meanwhile, suspected putsch leaders Col. Alexander Noble and Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando have withdrawan their bids for governor in their respective provinces.

Noble said he and Blando withdrew after realizing the futility of running for public posts while under detention. The two are detained in Camp Aguinaldo and are facing court martial proceedings.

Noble led the Mindanao mutiny in 1990 and is believed to be one of the chief planners of the bloody December 1989 putsch. Blando was also implicated in the December 1989 coup attempt.

Earlier, Noble announced he was running for governor in Bukidnon while Blando eyed the governor's seat in Isabela.

At least two other military rebels—Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador—are still running for public office even if they have to campaign behind bars.

## Police To Counter Communist Extortionists

*HK0604065492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 6 Apr 91 pp 1, 2*

[By Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] President Aquino will order the Philippine National Police [PNP] to deploy additional security forces in rebel-infested areas of the country to neutralize the "extortion" activities of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF] victimizing candidates for the May 11 polls through the issuance of alleged "permit to campaign [PTC]," according to Press Secretary Horacio Paredes.

The Palace move was designed to counter the NDF's announcement that it was imposing a campaign-for-a-fee scheme on candidates wanting to woo voters in rebel "controlled" areas.

At the same time, Paredes stressed that any candidate who would accede to the NDF's demand was criminally liable under Philippine laws because it was tantamount to recognizing the legitimacy of the underground movement.

While condemning the NDF's move as "no different from "tong collection [fee payed to the bank of a gambling establishment]," Paredes stressed that administration candidates would not kowtow to the NDF demand.

"The government condemns this practice," Paredes said, adding that "it is not different from the practice of unscrupulous policemen demanding tong from jeepney or bus drivers for the privilege of using the streets."

The NDF, the political umbrella of the communist movement, sent press releases and copies of the PTC to news agencies last Saturday, stating that candidates should first get a written permit from it "as a sign that they recognize the government of the CPP, NPA, and NDF in territories controlled by the rebels."

The press releases, attributed to NDF spokesman Charlie de Luna, also warned that any candidate who would choose to defy the NDF would get their comeuppance.

"This seems that any candidate who wishes to campaign freely in territories under the revolutionary movement must first talk to the highest NDF officials in the area to get permission," De Luna was reported as saying.

The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces have allegedly a list of the so-called rebel "controlled" or infested areas.

De Luna was also quoted as saying the rebels would not allow "notorious national politicians... especially if they have been involved in illegal activities, corruption... immorality... and are counter-revolutionary and supporters of the total war policy of low intensity conflict of the Aquino regime... to enter their territories."

Paredes, on the other hand, said the Lakas ng EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue's Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats candidates would not accede to the NDF's demand.

Paredes said the NDF's activities only "show the true nature of the so-called NPA."

"These are pure extortion. They (NPAs) have no ideology at all," he said, adding that the PTCs were nothing but "criminal offenses."

More than 70,000 candidates are campaigning for 17,000 posts, including the presidency, governorships, mayoralties and more than 220 seats in the two houses of Congress.

The communists have refused to endorse any national candidates and have denounced the elections as a fraud.

But rebel sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say the guerillas will quietly support some local candidates deemed sympathetic to the 24-year-old Marxist movement.

## Bicol Communists Issue Election Campaign Rules

*HK0604065192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Apr 92 pp 1, 7*

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] in the Bicol Region reminded candidates to get a permit to campaign from the rebel commands in their areas.

Ka [Comrade] Charlie de Luna, NDF spokesman in Bicol, interviewed in an undisclosed barangay in Albay, said the permits were a sign that the candidates recognized the government of CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army]-NDF in territories under their control in different parts of the country.

This meant that any candidate who wished to campaign freely in rebel-controlled territories must first talk to the highest NDF official in the area to get permission. De Luna said any candidate who did not follow this policy or who dared to enter CPP-NPA-NDF areas without a permit to campaign will be meted out the proper punishment.

Meanwhile, Noli Libertad, spokesman of the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command operating in Northern Luzon, scored the Commission on Elections [Comelec] for its failure to disband private armies in the region.

Libertad also said in a statement that the recent killing of Ramon Calindas, a political leader of Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] standard-bearer Fidel V. Ramos in Ilocos Sur, proved the Comelec gun ban has failed.

The statement said this was proof that no private army has been disbanded in the whole region, particularly in the Cagayan Valley.

Libertad also warned that more political killings can be expected before the May elections.

"We should brace ourselves for more violence, electoral rigging and cheating," Libertad said.

The statement also lambasted Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy and his supporters for being turncoats when they bolted the LDP [Liberal Democatic Party] to join the Lakas-NUCD. The statement charged this was done "to preserve their logging and business interests and be assured of AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] suport in their re-election bids."

The statement said P2 billion [Philippine pesos] was given in exchange for the Dy family's support for a Ramos victory in Isabela.

De Luna said the permit to campaign will not be issued to all candidates who applied for it.

The rebel spokesman said notorious traditional politicians, or trapos, will not be given permits, especially if they have been involved in illegal activities, corruption, abuses, immorality. This also excluded those who were counterrevolutionary and who supported the government's total war policy and low-intensity conflict policies.

According to De Luna, the NDF will closely screen candidates who want to campaign in guerrilla zones to prevent not only notorious trapos but also government and military spies posing as candidates from entering the rebel areas.

But progressives and politicians with good records were assured of permits to campaign.

A copy of the permit listed several conditions to be observed, among them:

—Names of bodyguards and their firearms should be filed and be approved by the rebel commands.

—No military escorts are allowed.

—No spying will be tolerated.

Police intelligence reports recently shown to newsmen said communist rebels expected to earn millions from the contributions they collect from candidates who applied for the permits.

The report said the contributions ranged from P200,000 for presidential candidates, P150,000 for gubernatorial bets, P100,000 for senatorial candidates, P50,000 for congressional candidates and P10,000 for mayoral candidates.

## Thailand

### Paper Calls Narong's Position 'Clearly Untenable'

*BK0304012192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 92 p A8*

[Editorial: "Time To Help Narong Find a Graceful Exit"]

[Text] Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong Wongwan's position is now clearly untenable. Yet no one has found him a graceful exit yet, because as of yesterday, he was still adamant that he wanted to be the next premier.

Senior executives in Narong's party began to show some reservations about his nomination over the past few days. Some even conceded privately that it would be impossible for Narong to lead a Thai government effectively while suspicions of his involvement in drug trafficking remain strong. Others suggested that Narong name a more suitable person to replace him, and extract something from the nominee in return to protect his own political career as well as the Samakkhi Tham Party.

But politicians in the opposing four-party camp are clearly after Narong's head. New Aspiration Party [NAP] secretary-general Phisan Munasatsathon declared his party considered Narong a "world criminal" and would treat him as such if NAP ever attained power.

Meanwhile, Democrat party executives called for an urgent probe of Narong by the House. They intend to push for the formation of a special House committee to investigate Narong when the House opens its first meeting this afternoon. They say the investigation must be made first and the election of a House Speaker can wait.

The Democrat Party's motion will constitute the first major test of the unity of the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition. If the five parties in the coalition stick together, their combined strength of 195 votes in the 360-member House can easily dismiss the motion and shield Narong from further embarrassment. If not, Narong will be in deep trouble. Even declining the premiership might not help salvage his political career at that stage.

Once again we want to remind Narong that he is fighting to defend his own political career, not Thai democracy. If he bows out today the political system will not suddenly collapse. Nor will the system necessarily be any stronger with him as premier.

If Narong backs down, his party can still try to name another nominee for the premiership and maintain its leadership role in the coalition. This alternative seems quite palatable to the Chat Thai Party, the second largest in the coalition, whose leader ACM [Air Chief marshal] Sombun Rahong has shown little interest in vying for the premiership.

The other option is to bring in the Democrat party and make party leader Chuan Likphai premier. The charismatic

Chuan may be acceptable to the public and the military, but many senior Chat Thai executives dislike him and would consider it an "insult" to come under the leadership of Chuan whose party has only 44 House seats.

When the House opens this afternoon, we shall see whether a solution to this unprecedented crisis has been found.

If the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition stays united, regardless of whether a solution has been found for Narong, it will likely push for the election of its man, Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Dr Athit Urairat, as the House Speaker. The nomination for the premiership can then be discussed over the long weekend (Monday is Chakri Day, a public holiday).

With a Samakkhi Tham man in the House Speaker's post, the party can at least have some say in who will be recommended to HM [His Majesty] the King for appointment to the premiership.

Though it is still unclear who has the constitutional duty to present the name of the next premier to the King, it is generally agreed that the House Speaker will consult with Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong before Sunthon submits the name in his capacity as the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC). Sunthon, a retired supreme commander, has voiced disapproval of Narong, saying that the next premier must be someone who is acceptable to not only the Thai public but also the world at large.

There certainly are senior politicians in the House who can meet this high, but necessary standard. The problem is that there may be too many of them who aspire to be premier and too few who are willing to support any one from their own number for the top government post.

If the five-party coalition cannot find a substitute to Narong, then its government may not survive the first no-confidence vote. NAP and its three allies, who have 163 votes altogether, need the support of only 153 of the 270 senators to have a simple majority in a joint parliamentary meeting to censure and sack Narong.

Narong has enough experience to realize what will happen down the road. But he may be too disappointed and angry to see clearly what he needs to do to get himself out of this terrible situation. It is the duty of his party and coalition partners to help find him a graceful exit before it is too late.

### NAP Vows To 'Eliminate' Narong

*BK0304004292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 92 p A1*

[Text] The New Aspiration Party [NAP] branded Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan an "international criminal" yesterday and pledged an all-out attempt to "eliminate" the premiership nominee, who is suspected by the United States of being involved in drug trafficking.

The announcement by NAP Secretary-General Phisan Munlasatsathon came after Narong refused to back down in his bid to become Thailand's 19th prime minister and reiterated his denial of the US allegation.

"Whenever we have the power, we will deal with Narong as an international criminal whom everybody must work together to suppress," Phisan said.

He added that the "power" he referred to did not specifically mean administrative authority.

"We don't have to be a government in order to take action. We can do so as the opposition, through a grilling or no-confidence motion," Phisan said.

Allies of Narong's Samakkhi Tham Party have denounced the US charge, describing it as interference in Thai politics and a ploy to discredit the pro-military political bloc.

NAP leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday would not elaborate on his party's strategy concerning Narong.

"Just be patient and everything will be all right," he told reporters. "When the time is right, things will become clear."

Observers say the NAP's move may be an indication the party has given up on its attempts to form an alternative coalition government after Narong's allies reaffirmed their support for him and vowed to remain united in the face of any NAP attempt to take power.

The NAP is the first party to have publicly put the Narong controversy on its political agenda. Its allies—the Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity parties—have avoided politicizing the US accusation though Solidarity Secretary-General Uthai Phimchaichon urged Narong yesterday to take into account the country's image before deciding to assume the premiership.

"If Narong will retreat for the sake of his credibility and the interests of 50 million people, he will be doing the right, honourable thing," Uthai said.

### Leaders Consider Replacement

*BK0404010192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 92 pp A1-A2*

[Text] Leaders of the five pro-military parties met at a secret rendezvous last night under growing pressure to find a way to break the political stalemate caused by their seemingly doomed plan to back Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan as prime minister.

One option is for them to offer Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai the top executive post in exchange for his party joining the coalition, a major realignment which would boost the bloc's slim majority support in the House.

The five parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—yesterday scored their first political victory in the election of the House speaker and his two deputies.

But they are still caught in a political dilemma caused by growing opposition to Narong's nomination.

Publicly the five parties still vowed support for Narong but it has nearly become a foregone conclusion that he stands little chance of winning the top executive post due to reports of American and Australian suspicions of his involvement with international drug trafficking.

Even if the parties go ahead with formal nomination of Narong, National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong is unlikely to relay it to His Majesty the King for royal approval.

Sunthon has let it be known that Narong would not be the right choice unless he has cleared himself of the suspicions.

There is also the possibility of a protracted tug-of-war over the nomination if the five parties stand firm behind Narong, unless Sunthon moves to nominate somebody else on his own initiative.

Yet with Athit as House speaker, the five parties seem assured that Sunthon would not go it alone without the consent of the deputy leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party.

Sunthon is empowered through an interim article of the Constitution to present the nomination to His Majesty.

But in general, Sunthon is expected to abide by the call for him to seek the consent of the speaker on the nomination issue.

Athit made that point clear after his election.

"I will coordinate with the NPKC chairman immediately after my election is officially approved by royal command. The rules of the game must be abided by: after the royal appointment, parties must submit their proposals on the next prime minister to me. And I am saying this not as a party member, but as House speaker," he said.

Chat Thai MP Chumphon Sinlapacha and Social Action MP Chawat Sudlabha were also elected first and second deputy House speakers yesterday afternoon afther the Senate elected Ukrit Mongkonnawin as Senate speaker and picked Gen Wichit Bunyawat and Asa Meksawan as deputy Senate speakers.

Parliament Secretary General Phaisit Pipatanakun last night reportedly forwarded the results of the election to the Royal Household for approval by His Majesty the King.

Athit told reportes that the NPKC chairman should present the nomination to His Majesty according to the speaker's advice.

The Samakkhi Tham-led bloc obviously harbours suspicions that the NPKC chairman might try to help his longtime friend, New Aspiration Party (NAP) leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, to fulfil his ambition to become prime minister.

Rumours were rampant yesterday that Sunthon might make a swift, unilateral move by seeking an audience with His Majesty to present a nomination in favour of Chawalit.

NAP sources yesterday voiced confidence that Sunthon would eventually nominate Chawalit.

Air Force Commander in Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, Air Force Cheif of Staff Suthep Thapparak and First Brigade Commander Lt Gen Chairanong Nunphakdi went over to Sunthon's residence last night, sparking speculation that the officers were lobbying for Sunthon to change his mind about nominating Chawalit.

In the meantime, leaders of the five-party alliance met last night apparently to discuss options to end the nomination crisis.

The meeting came amidst reports that they were considering the option of replacing Narong with Democrat leader Chuan as their premiership nominee.

Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai, the two largest of the five parties, reportedly are ready to welcome the Democrat Party as the sixth partner.

Participation by the Democrat Party in their alliance would boost its majority support in the House from 195 to 238.

The five are aware of the fact that 195, which is only 15 over half of the total House seats, is only a slim majority.

But they are also reluctant to co-opt the Phalang Tham Party, which has forged a close alliance with NAP.

But the five-party bloc has not yet gone as far as making a firm commitment to replace Narong with Chuan.

In their overtures to the Democrats, senior Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham members reportedly said that the five were ready to back Chuan as prime minister if Narong could not make it.

They also promised that the five would join the Democrats in the latter's campaign for constitutional amendments to upgrade the House speaker to the status of Parliament president, and curb the interim powers of the Senate.

But Chuan has reacted cautiously, apparently suspecting that the offer could be only a bait.

The Democrats are not expected to consider the offer seriously unless the five came up with a firm commitment on the nomination offer.

The other option which the five may explore is to nominate an outsider to the premiership as they have failed to find a suitable replacement in their own bloc to replace Narong.

Chat Thai leader ACM Sombun Rahong has reportedly opted out, preferring to control the Communications Ministry to following in Narong's footsteps.

Being prime minister would make Sombun a vulnerable target for a NAP-led opposition.

Although some senior Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai fugures have pushed for the nomination, powerful brokers in their parties have dismissed their candidacies.

They include Gen Athit Kamlanged and Chat Thai advisory chairman Pol Gen Praman Adireksan.

Informed sources said that the Samakkhi Tham Party is leery that with Athit at the helm, their relations with the military could deteriorate.

Athit, formerly leader of the Puangchon Chaothai Party, also has only a handful of followers in the party.

In regard to Praman, Chat Thai sources said that party secretary-general Banhan Sillapa-acha and ACM Sombun do not think it wise to propose the ageing advisory chairman's nomination for similar reasons.

At his residence late last night, Narong told reporters that he was very exhausted in his nomination bid.

"I am seeking to become prime minister but they won't let me achieve it," he said.

He stopped short of saying if he would bow out of the race.

## Narong Said 'Tiring' of Bid

*BK0504022892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 92 p A2*

[Excerpt] A weary Narong Wongwan gave he first indication that he was tiring of his bid for the premiership on Friday night, saying he was depressed and tired of the storm of controversy triggered by the drug trafficking allegations against him.

"I am exhausted. I have moved from one political meeting to another," he told reporters gathered outside his home. His comments were precipitated by a flurry of political meetings around the capital on Friday night as the drugs affair snowballed locally and overseas.

Narong's indication that his resolve was cracking led to intense speculation throughout the night that Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Kraphrayun would be asked by the five parties to head the new government.

"I aspired to become prime minister but they don't want me in that position," said Narong, as he saw his chance of being premier waning in light of revelations that he was under suspicion by American drug authorities for international trafficking, an allegation he had consistently denied.

Narong said on Friday night that his attempt to become prime minister was being blocked, but at the time he did not name the people involved. However the military backers of his Samakkhi Tham party reportedly distanced themselves from him as events unfolded.

There was also heavy speculation that National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong would not relay his nomination to His Majesty the King.

The Samakkhi Tham party leader said that at a meeting with party MPs shortly before the House session Friday, he had complained that he was feeling downhearted.

But Narong said that at that time the five parties in the alliance, his own, Chat Thai, Social Action Party and Prachkon Thai, were still rallying behind his nomination to the premiership. [passage omitted]

## Reportedly To Withdraw

*BK0404074292 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Apr 92 p 22*

[Text] Late last night there was a report from the alliance of five parties [Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai, and Ratsadon] that an agreement was reached to allow Narong Wongwan to withdraw from the nomination of prime minister. The leading members of those parties discussed the matter and finally agreed to have a neutral person take up the prime minister post in order to solve all problems.

## Military Decides To 'Put Aside' Narong

*BK0404070092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[by Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok April 4 (AFP)—Thailand's top military leaders have decided that prime minister designate Narong Wongwan, dogged by drug allegations, will not take office, political sources said Saturday.

Narong, 66, a business tycoon from northern Thailand, had been picked for the position by a coalition of pro-military parties formed in late May in the aftermath of general elections.

But his chances for the premiership were thrown into doubt when the U.S. State Department confirmed that Narong—whose business interests and political base are in Thailand's corner of the opium-producing Golden Triangle—had been denied a visa to the United States last year because of suspected ties with drug trafficking.

Narong has repeatedly denied the allegations.

A decision to put aside Narong's bid for the prime ministership came at meetings Friday of members of Thailand's junta and leading political figures, the sources said.

The junta toppled Chatchai Chunhawan's elected government early last year.

Its leader, General Sunthon Khongsomphong, a retired supreme commander, was empowered under interim constitutional arrangements to appoint the premier after the March 22 elections.

The sources said military leaders had also decided to continue its support for the five-party coalition which chose Narong. The grouping holds 195 seats in the 360-member House of Representatives.

This suggests that the search would continue for a politician, rather than a non-elected military leader, to fill the prime minister's position, at least for the time being.

Junta strongman General Suchinda Khraprayun, the armed forces supremo, is widely believed to covet the post.

But pro-democracy students and activists had threatened to organise street demonstrations if Suchinda, who masterminded last year's bloodless coup, were named. Narong's designation had been seen as aiming at defusing the tension.

In another blow to Narong's campaign to become prime minister, Thailand's Supreme Court upheld a death sentence given to the brother of a close aide for heroin trafficking.

The verdict for the execution of Arun Chongsuthamani was handed down Friday in a court sitting in Bangkok which was called without advance notice.

Arun, the elder brother of Narong's private secretary, Mongkol Chongsuthamani, was one of four men arrested in 1987 in Thailand's southern Hat Yai district when police found 14.2 kilograms (31.2 pounds) of high grade heroin in their hotel rooms.

Also on Friday, the Australian Embassy in Bangkok denied a news report that Narong has been banned from Australia as he is from the United States. But another political associate of his, Arom Pumpiriyaplung, has been jailed in Australia since 1987 on drug charges.

Efforts to form a government are expected to intensify over the next few days, with top politicians jockeying for positions, after the election Friday of Athit Urairat as House of Representatives speaker.

Athit belongs to the pro-military Samakkhi Tham (Unity Justice) party, chairman is Narong.

Under Thailand's constitutional system, the speaker is to collect names for the premiership to present them them to Sunthon.

The Samakkhi Tham party won 79 seats in the election, the most of any party. Its allies in the coalition are Chat Thai (Thai Nation), the Social Action Party (SAP), Prachakon (Thai Citizen) and Ratsadon (Populace).

## Forces Repeat Call for Elected Premier

*BK0504022392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] Pro-democracy parties yesterday reaffirmed their stance that the country's next prime minster must be an elected MP and not a "neutral person."

New Aspiration Party [NAP] spokesman Chaturon Chaisaeng said his party is definitely opposed to the junta's attempt to lobby National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to nominate a "neutral person" for the premiership.

He added that if the pro-military bloc which nominated Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan cannot form a government then it should give the NAP a chance.

The junta have said they would not interfere in politics but their actions have suggested otherwise, Mr Chaturon said.

Meanwhile, NAP deputy leader Wira Musikapong praised statements by Deputy Defence Minister Gen Wimon Wongwanit and Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun that the military would not interferce in the formation of the government and would accept a prime minister chosen from elected representatives.

But he said that on Friday night, Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Air Force Chief-of-Staff ACM Suthep Thepharak and First Army Corps Commander Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi went to Gen Sunthon's house to convince him to nominate Gen Suchinda as prime minister.

"We wonder if ACM Kaset, ACM Suthep and Lt-Gen Chainarong are stil serving in the Thai Armed Forces. If so, why have they failed to obey their commander?" Mr Wira asked.

Mr Wira said such military interference in politics was insulting to the poeple.

"In doing so, the military were following in the footseps of Burma. If they do not step back to where they should be it would be tantamount to robbing the people of their political rights," said the NAP deputy leader.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said Gen Sunthon should work closely with House Speaker Atht Urairat in order to select a person as prime minister.

"He should not just pick up a man who is close to him or because of personal relations," he said when asked to comment on reports that the NPKC was pushing for Gen Suchinda to fill the post.

"He (Gen Sunthon) should consult with the House Speaker. He must comply with the rules and not make the decision by himself," the Democrat Party leader said.

Mr Chuan said it is now obsolete to have a "neutral person" as prime minister.

"If it is not possible to name Mr Narong, then the political parties should find another elected man for the post," said the eight-time Trang MP.

"Our principle is that the prime minister must come from the election," he said.

Mr Chuan, however, admitted that Gen Sunthon has the power to nominate the prime minister, adding that the present political situation is fluid.

If Gen Suchinda accepted that post there would be a political disturbance and this may trigger opposition, he said.

Meanwhile, Phalang Tham Party Chamlong Srimuang said if a "neutral person" is named prime minister then his party would certainly be in the oposition.

"Based on our political analysis, if a neutral person is appointed prime minister the political situation would be in turmoil and the government would not last long," Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

"I used to tell the people that they should vote for a party and not for individuals. Their way of voting for candiates from different parties has opened a way for an outsider to step in," he said.

### Proposal of 'Neutral Person' as Prime Minister

*BK0404143492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Growing public attention has been given to news about the selection of a prime minister—whether Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan would be selected. Reporters have been following National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] Chairman General Sunthon Khongsomphong since this morning. According to reports, the NPKC chairman left his house for Suan Run Rudi to meet the commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces. The meeting was short.

Late last night, the NPKC chairman met with Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Air Force Chief of Staff ACM Suthep Theppharak. There was a report that, as a result of the meeting, a neutral person would be proposed as prime minister.

This morning, the NPKC chairman and the commanders of the three Armed Forces agreed that a neutral person would be proposed as prime minister. Reporters are still waiting at the house of NPKC Chairman Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong in Soi 65 off Sukhumwit Road for more news.

At about 1900, Gen. Phat Akkhanibut, deputy leader of the New Aspiration Party, arrived at Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong's house for a meeting.

### SFT Opposes Support

*BK0604013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] A group from the Student Federation of Thailand [SFT] rallied at Sanam Luang yesterday afternoon to express their opposition to a neutral person being appointed to head the new government.

They took turns to speak from the back of a pick-up truck which carried a poster reading:

"The premiership issue is an affair for MPs. The NPKC should return to the barracks. The prime minister must come from the election."

The poster was accompanied by a banner which read:

"Not all the 360 MPs are unqualified."

They also marched to Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun's residence in Soi Ranong 2 but did not see the general.

SFT secretary-general Parinya Thewanarumitkun said if Gen Suchinda accepted the premiership it would mean he failed to keep his word because many times in the past he said he would not accept the post.

His acceptance of the post would only indicate that the National Peacekeeping Council has interfered in the formation of the government, Mr Parinya said.

The students' will continue to rally at Sanam Luang to urge the people to join their call for Gen Suchinda to turn down the offer, he said.

Meanwhile, the Thammasat University Student Government issued a statement urging Gen Suchinda to set a precedent by keeping the military away from politics.

### NPKC, Party Heads on Premier Nomination

*BK0504043292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] NPKC [National Peace-Keeping Council] Chairman General Sunthon Khongsomphon, Supreme Commander and Army Command General Suchinda Khraprayun, Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, Navy Commander Admiral Wichet Karunyawanit, and several senior military officers in the NPKC met at Suan Reunruedi Command Headquarters yesterday morning to reportedly discuss the nomination of the 19th prime minister of the country. They emerged from the meeting at 1100 without talking to newsmen.

The NPKC chairman reaffirmed, however, that the person who will be nominated as the 19th prime minister must be accepted by the international community because Thailand cannot live in isolation. Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong said that he himself is willing to face criticism from the general public in proposing a person for the nomination because everything he has done is aimed at serving the country and the monarchy. He added that the nomination procedure requires prior consultation with the house speaker, and that he has not yet met with House Speaker Athit Urairat. Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong said:

[Begin recording] [Sunthon] We have to consider the matter for the sake of the face of our Thai people. We should not refer to any individual.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has the group comprised of the New Aspiration, Palang Dharma, and Democrat Parties made any proposal?

[Sunthon] They have contacted us. I told them to let me know how many seats they have.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think that we can maintain good relations with foreign countries if the prime minister comes from the military?

[Sunthon] Anyone, a civilian or military officer, can be a prime minister if he is accepted by the international community.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Sunthon] We cannot live in isolation. Our country is not a major power.

[Unidentified correspondent] Then Narong Wongwan still has the chance to....

[Sunthon] [interrupting] He still has the chance to be nominated as the prime minister.

[Unidentified correspondent] This implies that we give him the chance to clear himself first?

[Sunthon] The chance is always open. You have to understand that Thailand cannot live by itself. We have to deal with other countries in the fields of diplomacy, trade, and the economy. Otherwise, the Thai who are doing business in foreign countries will be in a difficult position if those countries do not accept our prime minister.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] are not satisfied with the way Narong is clearing himself?

[Sunthon] Not because we are not satisfied with him. We spent some time jointly considering the nomination of the new prime minister. We are not against Narong.

[Question] How long will it take to make the decision?

[Sunthon] I cannot tell you now. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Supreme Commader Gen. Wimon Wongwanit noted that the next prime minister must possess certain qualifications. He said:

[Begin recording] [Wimon] The supreme commander will not take it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Under the present circumstances [words indistinct]?

[Wimon] It depends on the people. Members of the House of Representives, representatives of the people, will have to make the right decision for the benefit of the country. I do not want it either.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Wimon] Narong must clear himself. It is necessary for any head of government to possess suitable qualifications. He must prove that he is suitable for the position. [end recording]

First Army Region Commader Lieutenant General Phaibun Hongsinla said that the military does not interfere in politics. He personally believes that there is nothing wrong with having Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun as the next prime minister if that is what the the majority [in the House of Respresentatives] and the people want. Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun is one of the suitable persons for the premiership.

House Speaker Athit Urairat revealed that political parties have not yet proposed any person for the nomination for the premiership. The name of the new prime minister can be proposed to His Majesty the King within the next one or two days.

Buntheng Thongsawat, member of the House of Representatives from Lampang Province and a senior member of Samakkhi Tham Party, reaffirmed that Narong Wongwan has not yet withdrawn himself from the nomination for prime minister. He said:

[Begin recording] [Buntheng] He has not yet withdrawn from being nominated. If he does, the five parties must meet first. That is the probable course of action. Narong Wongwan should hold consultations with the five parties.

[Unidentified correspondent] So far, the five parties have not yet considered this issue?

[Buntheng] Not yet. [end recording]

Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri, Samakkhitham MP [member of parliament] from Buriram Province, has submitted the names of 195 MPs, who support Narong Wongwan for prime minister to the house speaker. They will bring the matter up for consultation with the NPKC chairman.

Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, leader of Chat Thai Party, reaffirmed his party's support for Narong Wongwan. He said:

[Begin recording] [Sombun] My party continues to support Narong.

[Unidentified correspondent] If Suchinda Khraprayun is nominated as the new prime minister, will....

[Sombun, interrupting] I have no comment. We have not discussed this issue. [end recording]

Major General Chamlong Simuang, leader of Palang Dharma Party, said that Narong Wongwan should withdraw from being nominated for prime minister because it would take time to disprove the allegation [against him]. He said:

[Begin recording] [Chamlong] Palang Dharma Party held a meeting a few days ago to analyze this matter. We are of the opinion that we should now have a government, since it is already more than 10 days after the general election. The formation of the government has been delayed because we are wasting time arguing over the charge against Narong Wongwan. It will take time to clear the accusation. The best thing to do is for Narong to withdraw himself from the nomination. This is the resolution adopted by our party. We feel that we are also responsible for the formation of the government. Delay in the formation of the government will have a direct impact on every citizen. Leaders of the political party that commands the second majority of votes in the house must form the government.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you mean Sombun Rahong?

[Chamlong] Allow me not to mention the name of any particular individual. Three parties have over 70 seats in the house. As we informed the general public earlier, with no party winning an absolute majority, it is very possible that a neutral person will be nominated for the premiership. Our party has analyzed that such a scenario will certainly have adverse consequences in the long run. Opposition from the general public will increase. Eventually, it will lead to an uprising by the people. We do not want this to happen in our country. [end recording]

### Sunthon Says PM Announcement 'Next Week'

*BK0504125092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Text] National Peace-Keeping Council Chairman General Sunthon Khongsomphong informed reporters who flocked to his residence late on 5 April that he hopes an announcement on the appointment of the prime minister will be made some time next week. He noted at this time that he has not received a confirmation from political parties on their support for Army Commander and Supreme Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun for the post of prime minister.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] The five political parties have reportedly changed their position and are now supporting Gen. Suchinda as prime minister. Can you comment?

[Sunthon] They have not informed me about it.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Sunthon] They have not informed me.

[first reporter] Have you not received any phone call on the matter?

[Sunthon] No.

[first reporter] Do you think they might surprise you by calling on you here tonight?

[Sunthon] They may come. i am not discriminating against anyone.

[second reporter] Can you say that an announcement will be made next week?

[Sunthon] It is possible that there will be an announcement next week, providing that there is a command for an audience with the king. [end recording]

### Sources Say Suchinda Agrees To Become PM

*BK0604005592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 92 p 6*

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun has agreed to become prime minister after the Samakkhi Tham Party [STP]-led alliance assured him of its full support, reliable sources said last night.

National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong was informed and agreed to forward Gen Suchinda's name to His Majesty the King for approval, the sources said.

Gen Suchinda's nomination was initially timed for an official announcement in the middle of this week, the sources said.

But the plan was changed after leading members of the STP-led alliance came out publicly to confirm the alliance's decision to switch its support from STP leader Narong Wongwan to Gen Suchinda yesterday.

The alliance made its decision on Saturday night, the sources said.

Political parties in the STP-led alliance yesterday gathered the signatures of 195 MPs to support Gen Suchinda's nomination.

"Everything is now pending His Majesty the King's approval," said the source who added that the Suchinda-led coalition is now "irreversible".

There were widespread rumours yesterday that a Royal Command has already been issued officially appointing Gen Suchinda to head the new coalition government, but they could not be confirmed.

Gen Sunthon told reporters he had not yet proposed any name to His Majesty and has not asked Gen Suchinda whether he was willing to accept the post.

He said he could not say who he will propose to His Majesty as the prime minister nominee because "I have a gentleman's agreement with my brothers in the Armed Forces not to talk about it."

But he said he would take into account the country's stability in deciding whose name to propose.

"So far, the name of Gen Suchinda has not been proposed to me and the military has not discussed his nomination," he said.

The five parties believe Gen Suchinda as prime minister will ensure the military's support for the government which will help restore investors' confidence in the country and its economy, the sources said.

Gen Suchinda will also be able to provide strong leadership to the new government in view of the country's policy to tap the vast market potential emerging in the newly-developing free market economies of Indochina, the sources said.

Mr Narong, the sources said, was briefed about the alliance's decision to switch its support, and agreed to back down.

Key members of the Samakkhi Tham-led alliance confirmed yesterday that their grouping was unanimous in agreeing to nominate Gen Suchinda in place of Mr Narong.

Chat Thai Deputy Leader Sano Thianthong said the alliance opted for Gen Suchinda after a meeting Saturday night because the choice was the best way out of the political stalemate.

"We have no way out. We chose an elected person, only to be badly criticised," Mr Sano said, referring to the nomination of Mr Narong.

The five parties—the STP, Chat Thai, Social Action [SAP], Prachakon Thai and Ratchadon—decided to support Gen Suchinda as their nominee because they could not allow the political deadlock to continue.

"This is the best way out. I think things will turn out all right," said the Prachin Buri MP who confirmed that the decision to choose Gen Suchinda was a joint resolution of the five parties.

The STP alliance is firm on forming the next government because all members have remained united. Besides, it now commands the highest number of seats in the Lower House.

"The Cabinet is expected to be formed in a week," he said.

Social Action Party leader Montri Phongpanit confirmed Mr Sano's statement, adding that the five parties had to finally choose Gen Suchinda because the mass media opposed the appointment of Mr Narong.

Repeating his earlier stand that he would have no problem whether an elected or a non-elected person became prime minister, Mr Montri said he did not see any adverse effects if Gen Suchinda was made premier.

"More importantly, the Constitution doesn't prohibit a non-elected person from being appointed to the post," he said.

The Ayutthaya MP said that Gen Suchinda is acceptable to him and he is confident he can work with the general.

When asked whether politicians ruled "unusually rich" and whose assets were seized should be allowed to assume Cabinet posts, Mr Montri, who himself is under investigation, said the two issues are not related.

"I don't want to comment on this issue," he said.

He confirmed, however, that all the five parties unanimously agreed to support Gen Suchinda because they believe that the general will be able to contribute to the good of the economy and the country as a whole.

The choice of Gen Suchinda is a compromise under the present political situation, Mr Montri said.

Chat Thai Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha, however, insisted that the five parties are still behind Mr Narong although on Saturday night they discussed the impact of the alleged drug links on the STP leader.

"Newspapers have become an important variable and prompted us to analyse the situation again," the Suphan Buri MP said.

The political bloc has sent a representative to seek the opinion of the NPKC Chairman, Gen Sunthon.

Asked if this meant that the political parties are still under the influence of the military, Mr Banhan said:

"You have to look at history... how past governments were formed."

The five parties are determined to remain united and to jointly help form the next government, said Mr Banhan who admitted that the new coalition would be more difficult to form than in the past.

Meanwhile, STP sources said the alliance has reached a broad accord on allocation of Cabinet posts. Each political party will get one Cabinet post for every five MPs.

Under the agreement, the STP will be given 16 Cabinet seats, Chat Thai 15, SAP 6, Prachakon Thai 2 and Ratchadon 1.

Nine Cabinet seats will be reserved for "neutral persons" the sources said.

Under the agreement, the STP is expected to be in charge of agriculture, science and university affairs, Chat Thai will handle foreign affairs, education and industry while SAP will take public health and commerce.

Defence, interior and finance as well as some PM's [Prime Minister] office portfolios will be assigned to neutral persons and the military.

Gen Sunthon, asked about the Cabinet arrangement, said he disagreed with any attempt to appoint politicians declared "unusually rich" to the Cabinet.

"This will damage the image of the NPKC and make the February 23 coup meaningless because this (corruption) is one of the main reasons why we staged the coup," he said.

## Prospects for Suchinda Viewed

*BK0504051292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 92 p A9*

[Article by Sophon Ongkhara: "A White Knight Among Ruffians?"]

[Text] As prime minister-designate Narong Wongwan is still struggling to keep his nose above the water, so that he would not be drowned in the ongoing controversy over an alleged involvement in drug trafficking. Quite a few newspapers even came up with banner headlines saying that Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun was again tipped as a potential candidate for the premiership.

If this eventually materializes, it would mean that the ruling junta was successful in ushering Narong out from the bull's eye bearing the fact that the Samakkhi Tham Party leader has been ridden by relentless criticism from those who thought that he was unfit for the job.

In that process, Gen Suchinda would move into the firing range, awaiting the same barrages of barbed words from his opponents comprising politicians, academics, students and others who have been insisting that the successor to caretaker Premier Anan Panyarachun should be an elected politician.

In an over-simplification, it would look to most people that having Gen Suchinda as prime minister would certainly be far better than the embattled and allegedly tainted Samakkhi Tham leader. Junta chieftains now banking on the hope that the supreme commander and army chief might face less opposition this time, are just entertaining themselves with over-optimism and underestimation of the strong mood against crude political manipulation.

It was ironic that all the leaders of parties in the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition have flaws and weakness in one way or the other which effectively prevent them from claiming the national top job. Some lack the stature, credibility while being engulfed in the clouds of doubts over their integrity.

Chat Thai Party leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong obviously knew his own limits. If he wanted to take a shot at the premiership, his handling in the affairs of the airport duty-free shop at Don Muang would make him highly susceptible to renewed controversy. He was equally aware that he was certainly not the right man now. He has never been, and never will be. It was a predicament faced by Chat Thai key leaders.

Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit could never become prime minister because his party does not have enough votes. He has yet to clear himself in the courts because of allegations over his questionable wealth.

Samak Sunthorawet, Prachakon Thai leader, has long been casting a yearning look at the premiership, but his party has only seven MPs after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Phalang Tham Party. Samak was the most vocal in backing Narong because everybody knows that he wants to be part of the next government by all means. The loss of votes in Bangkok was the heavy price he had to pay for the failure to level with the city voters.

On the contrary, all leaders of the parties in the opposing camp have enough clout, stature and public acceptance to take the premiership. But none of them has a chance when the combined number of MPs is less than the Samakkhi Tham-led bloc.

But this is the way Thai politics has been played, with manipulators pulling the strings behind those who are subservient enough to their masters and discard whatever standard principles and scruples for self-interest.

That's why Gen Suchinda's name was floated again yesterday following a meeting Friday night of those involved in the coup last February. It was funny when the public heard repeated denials from some junta chieftains that they had no role whatsoever in the formation of the new government while Friday's meeting quite clearly shows the opposite.

The coup hotshots, who have little sensitivity to public criticism, know that they cannot lose in this game of manipulative politics. So the huddle with their henchmen went on until late that night and their choice eventually was Gen Suchinda. But as long as there is no official announcement, I am still optimistic in the belief that the general will decline the offer.

In case the general accepts the offer due to the pressing circumstances and nudging from his armed forces friends, his oversight will be inexplicable.

Junta leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong must have been in an extremely awkward position. He knew that Narong was so unpalatable to the public that he could not force himself to nominate the scandal-tainted politician to take the premiership. At the same time, his comrades-in-arms did not want the other bloc to head the new administration for fear that there would be too much uncertainty and threats to their career and perpetuation of power.

Suchinda was in a similar horns of dilemma. He had made at least three pledges that he would not become prime minister, but his followers in the army are prodding him to accept the job to prevent reprisals from politicians and his departure from the armed forces will speed up the career advancement for lower ranking officers.

At this stage, he should ask himself whether he is prepared to become a target for postshots by so many people who are adjusting their gun sights. Suchinda will be a larger bull's eye than Narong in many aspects. Support by the armed forces, the Samakkhi Tham-led bloc, and the Senate will not be enough to make him withstand all the political tirades from opposition politicians.

His lack of public mandate will be tempting enough for politicians to address him in Parliament as: "Dear unelected prime minister". Suchinda has been known as a man whose patience is very thin, and what he had faced so far might just be a touch with kid gloves compared with what he would encounter in the House.

If he agreed to be pushed and shoved to accept the premiership, there will be no turning back. His hands will be forced further to embrace scandal ridden politicians as Cabinet members, some of them—the financial heavyweights in money politics—will be the men he ousted during the last coup. His credibility will vanish overnight after the public learns that he decided to break his vows and throw them outside the window.

Once he accepts the dangling carrot, he would be left with little bargaining power. It will not be long for him to find out that there are quite many Cabinet members hiding the sticks behind their back. They know that he cannot return to the armed forces and must settle for a compromise whose terms would be drawn by the politicians. It will be mutual accommodation.

Suchinda will then learn that his ambitious hotshot friend in the National Peacekeeping Council will hardly be able to hide the jubilation after putting him on a political tightrope.

In the end, Suchinda will look more like a self-proclaimed white knight in shining armour in the company of ruffians and rogues, rather than a dignified national figure upheld by the public in awed reverence. Another impending question is: will Narong be among his Cabinet members after being coerced or cajoled to withdraw his bid for the premiership?

Finally, where will Suchinda end up in Thai political history after this fiasco?

### Leading Parties Offer Support

*BK0504001092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 92 p 1, 3*

[Text] The Samakkhi Tham-led bloc of five parties have agreed to switch their support from STP [Samakkhi Tham Party] leader Narong Wongwan to Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister, a source said last night.

The agreement was reached after a seven-hour meeting yesterday by leaders of the five parties, after National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong repeated his doubts about Mr Narong's credibility and suitability for the post.

The meeting, which began at about 3 p.m. at the Airport Hotel, was attended by Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong and secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha; Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Sunthorawet; Ratsadon Party leader Gen Mana Rattanakoset and secretary-general Chaiphak Siriwat; Mr Narong, STP secretary-general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakhonthap, deputy leader Phinit Chantharasurin and Mr Narong's son Anuson Wongwan; and Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit. Also at the meeting was Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin.

Most of those attending declined to talk to a throng of reporters when the meeting ended at about 10 p.m.

However, a source said the five leaders had agreed to back down from their support for Mr Narong and to nominate Gen Suchinda for prime minister.

The source said the meeting unanimously agreed that Gen Suchinda is the most suitable candidate in this situation.

"It's over. Gen Suchinda is the most suitable person. We will support him," said the source, who refused to be named.

The five parties have prepared a letter confirming their support for Gen Suchinda that will be forwarded to House Speaker Athit Urairat today, another source added.

NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has refused to propose Mr Narong as the country's new prime minister and would support Gen Suchinda instead.

Sources close to Gen Sunthon said that there is now no chance that Mr Narong will be proposed.

Gen Sunthon made it clear to close aides yesterday that under no circumstances would he designate Mr Narong for the post.

If this is true, Gen Suchinda may be urged to accept the post.

The NPKC chief is prepared to propose his name to His Majesty the King if he agrees to accept, the sources said.

Under the Constitution, the NPKC chief is empowered to propose the name of the prime minister to His Majesty.

One source close to the NPKC chief said Gen Sunthon believes that Mr Narong had been unable satisfactorily to clear himself of suspected links to narcotics trafficking.

Gen Sunthon repeated that he does not want to put His Majesty in an "uncomfortable position" by proposing Mr Narong's name.

The sources said that under a gentleman's agreement, Gen Sunthon will propose the name of Gen Suchinda, or Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin if Gen Suchinda declines to accept the post.

If ACM Kaset refuses, Gen Sunthon will propose New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

The sources ruled out Chat Thai leader ACM Sombnun Rahong.

"That is unlikely. The next prime minister will be an outsider," said the informed source.

Asked whether Gen Chawalit has a chance to become prime minister, the source said Gen Chawalit remains one of the three choices.

Gen Chawalit's chances of being appointed are slim because the decision would cause problems for the next government, since the STP-led wing has a majority in Parliament, one source said.

"I still believe he (Gen Sunthon) will support Gen Suchinda or else (the Narong controversy) will cause more problems, which is not beneficial to the country. No one wants to see this happen.

"Gen Suchinda made it clear earlier that he does not want to get involved in politics, but now I don't think he can turn down the offer.

"We have come to a dead end, and only he (Gen Suchinda) can salvage the situation," the source said.

Military sources also confirmed that Gen Suchinda has been urged to accept the offer by his brother-in-law Deputy Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and ACM Kaset.

The sources said that Gen Suchinda, if he agrees to accept, would probably insist that politicians who were ruled "unusually rich" after the February 23, 1991, coup be barred from the Cabinet.

If this happens, the sources predicted that political parties are most likely to seek a compromise, proposing sons or proxies of the "unusualy rich" politicians instead.

The sources said that with the flurry of activity among NPKC and political leaders in the STP-led alliance yesterday, a solution can be expected today.

NPKC leaders Gen Sunthon, Gen Suchinda, ACM Kaset and Navy chief Adm Wichet Kunyawanit met at NPKC headquarters yesterday, but refused to comment after the meeting.

Leaders of the STP-led alliance, including the STP's Thiti and Chat Thai's Banhan, met at the Airport Hotel.

On Friday night, ACM Kaset, Air Force Chief of Staff Suthep Thepharak and First Army Corps Commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi met with Gen Sunthon at the latter's home reportedly to discuss the issue.

During the meeting, Gen Sunthon said he would not propose Mr Narong's name and the premier's post must go to Gen Suchinda, ACM Kaset or Gen Chawalit, the sources said.

"The Constitution does not stipulate that the prime minister must come from the party which holds the most seats in Parliament.

"The prime minister can be anybody. He can be appointed first and support can be sought in Parliament later to form a government," one source quoted Gen Sunthon as saying.

First Army Region commander Lt-Gen Phaibun Hongsinlak said yesterday that he found Gen Suchinda to be the most suitable person for prime minister. "Is there anything bad about him? If he has support, then it should be all right," Lt-Gen Phaibun said.

### Sunthon Seeks Audience With King

*BK0504015692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 92 p 1, 3*

[Text] National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong declared yesterday that he would take full responsibility for the choice of prime minister.

However, the NPKC chairman would not elaborate on whom he would propose to His Majesty the King as the new prime minister.

Talking to reporters at his residence last night, Gen Sunthon confirmed that he has sought an audience with his Majesty the King but would not elaborate.

The NPKC leader said the STP-led alliance had forwarded the name Mr Narong Wongwan as its choice for the prime ministerial post to him on the night of March 22.

The name of the nominee for the premiership will not be forwarded to His Majesty the King until the last minute, Gen Sunthon said, adding that he is awaiting a royal notification on the timing of the audience.

"This will be my last duty in my capacity as NPKC chairman. It will be a difficult decision because I will have no more chances to make amends.

"I will accept the blame (in the event of a mistake) and I am ready for that.

"I have chosen to take this boat. It leaks and is not running on course. I will take the responsibility for choosing it and change its direction," he said.

Gen Sunthon said he could not elaborate on whom he will propose to His Majesty the King to be prime minister.

"But nobody will be able to impose their choice on me. On this matter I have sole authoritiy," Gen Sunthon told the BANGKOK POST.

He said that he can propose any person of his own choice to His Majesty the King but by democratic process he will consult with the House Speaker on who should be proposed.

"I also have my own choice," Gen Sunthon said, who admitted that he has not yet met House Speaker Athit Urairat to discuss the matter.

Gen Sunthon said that there would only be one name presented to His Majesty the King to avoid passing a political burden to His Majesty.

Although the five political parties in the pro-military bloc forwarded the name of Mr Narong to Gen Sunthon on March 22, "other political parties still have a chance to present their own candidates," he said.

Gen Sunthon said the political parties which command fewer seats in the Lower House still have a chance to form the coalition because other political parties may defect to join them in the near future.

Gen Sunthon said he may not consider the nomination of Mr Narong at all because he would have to think about the country's image.

However, Mr Narong "still has a chance" if he is able to clear himself (from suspicion of links with the international narcotics trade).

He said Thailand cannot stand alone in the world and a tarnished prime minister may hurt Thai investments overseas.

Gen Sunthon said that he did not oppose Mr Narong personally.

He said that if a non-elected person is to become prime minister, that person must be either Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun or Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin.

But if an elected-person is to be chosen, the leader of the party with the highest number of seats would have priority followed by party leaders with the second and third highest number respectively.

"But if we are to go for a neutral person, who else should I support if not my own subordinates," Gen Sunthon said, referring to Gen Suchinda and ACM Kaset.

He said that whoever is to be chosen as prime minister must be supported by political parties.

He denied that the NPKC was locked in conflict with New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

He said Gen Chawalit would have no problem in becoming prime minister if the general has the support of political parties.

"There should not be any problem because Gen Chawalit is also my old boss," Gen Sunthon said.

### Paper Views Unacceptability

*BK0604020492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 92 p 4*

[Editorial: "National Letdown in the Making"]

[Text] The millions of voters who went to the polls on March 22 hoping the spirit of democracy, crushed in a bloodless coup on February 23 last year, was about to be resurrected and put back on course, however strewn with traps and obstacles, now seem about to suffer a major letdown. In place of their democratic hopes, they seem likely to find that not one of the 360 representatives to whom they gave a mandate to govern the country is apparently qualified to lead a government that seems about to be handed back to the person or clique responsible for the demise of democracy just over a year ago.

The unanimous decision by the Samakkhi Tham-led alliance of five parties, apparently under pressure from politically-ambitious and powerful military figures, to jettison the scandal plagued Samakkhi Tham Party leader Mr Narong Wongwan in favour of Supreme Commander and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun as nominee for prime minister has made a mockery of the elections and the political aspirations of the Thai people. Even though it may be constitutionally permissible under the present undemocratic Constitution, the move goes against all democratic norms and principles.

Recent days have seen Thailand fall under a regrettable international spotlight. Mr Narong, the country's designated prime minister, was mercilessly castigated in the foreign and local Press for suspected connections to narcotics trafficking. Although there has never been any substantiated evidence to support the allegations, the Samakkhi Tham leader failed to clarify the matter satisfactorily. So far as the media was concerned the case was closed, his credibility shattered to a point where to have allowed him to lead the government—as proposed by the coalition parties—would have been a major embarrassment for the country and the Thai people as a whole.

The decision of the five pro-military parties to dump Mr Narong is without doubt correct and justifiable. Indeed it should have been made earlier. The Samakkhi Tham leader became a dispensable pawn in a political chess game over which he had little say even from the beginning. But the rush to embrace a non-elected figure such as Gen Suchinda without going through the proper process of giving a chance for the other bloc of parties to make a nomination for the position of premier is unacceptable on all counts.

As NPKC [National Peace Keeping Council] chairman, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has the constitutional responsibility to countersign the appointment of the prime minister. He can do the Thai people a great service and also render the NPKC a graceful exit by ensuring all democratic ground rules are observed. These include giving the pro-democracy bloc of parties a chance to nominate a prime minister and form a government.

Clearly the country cannot afford to waste time on such a vital issue as forming a government; pressing problems are waiting to be tackled. But the obvious urgency must not be used as a justification for discarding democratic principles.

Gen Suchinda may be suitable—he may even be more qualified than a number of politicians—to be our next prime minister; his supporters may feel strongly about him. But without a public mandate, his nomination will be seen as merely a perpetuation of the power of the National Peace Keeping Council, an intent leaders of the Council have persistently denied. Any reasons such as national security quoted to justify his nomination will sound as hollow as the weak explanation given by the NPKC to justify its overthrow of the government of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan last year.

Gen Suchinda also will have to find a good excuse to explain to the Thai people why he is unable to keep his word, having repeatedly said he has no aspirations to become prime minister. More important still, he will have to dispel any doubts about close connections to vested business interests.

### Sees 'Parliamentary Dictatorship'

*BK0604020192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 92 p A8*

[Editorial: "An Unforgivable Betrayal"]

[Text] In the end, the pro-military coalition of five parties led by Samakkhi Tham had to withdraw their nomination of Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan to the premiership. But for reasons best known to only a few key men in those parties, they have invited army chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun to head the government they are forming.

Since the Constitution bars bureaucrats and military officers from concurrently holding political posts in the excutive branch, Gen Suchinda, who is also supreme commander, will have to resign from the military if he wants to be premier. Many of his subordinates certainly wish to see him take on the top post. His sudden resignation would enable several generals to rise to higher posts, particularly deputy army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who is expected to succeed Gen Suchinda as army chief.

The ultimate decision is Gen Suchinda's. Nobody can force him to leave the military. But if he does decide to take on the premiership, he will be blatantly reneging on a pledge given at a press conference last November, when he said neither he nor anyone else on the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] would become the next premier.

Gen Suchinda made the pledge voluntarily in the presence of a large group of military top brass and journalists. And virtually the entire nation saw him make the pledge on TV or read about it in newspapers. People expected Gen Suchinda to keep his promise.

Not only his personal integrity but the honour of the entire military establishment is on the line here.

A man who doesn't keep his word deserves no respect, much less public trust or international recognition. If he goes back on his promise, Gen Suchinda will be no more acceptable as premier than Narong, whom the NPKC surreptitiously dumped when public reaction to allegations of Narong's connections to drug trafficking grew stronger last week.

Of course Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the NPKC chairman, will say Gen Suchinda is "the most suitable person" given the present difficult situation. He can even point out that the five-party coalition wants Gen Suchinda to come to its rescue. These are hollow excuses. In case anyone needs to be reminded of it, Sunthon was the first to contend that Gen Suchinda's pledge last November need not be taken seriously because it was made to defuse an extremely dangerous situation arising from the confrontation between the NPKC and the democracy movement opposing undemocratic provisions in the draft constitution. The tensions subsided following Gen Suchinda's pledge and some changes to the draft.

The five-party coalition is to be blamed for failing to produce a more acceptable nominee than Narong. Its leaders revealed their utterly spineless nature when they sought the advice of Sunthon and air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin on election night, March 22, after returns showed they would gain control a majority in the 360-member House. The only concern of these alleged "people's representatives" is to ensure that their parties are in a new government. And they now have even gone to the lengths of crawling to Gen Suchinda to offer him the premiership—thus surrendering to the army chief and the NPKC the mandate for democratic civilian rule.

This is an unforgivable betrayal which eveyone who voted in the election will not soon forget. The sad irony is that some of these senior politicians were ministers in the Chatchai administration, whose coalition government was toppled by Gen Suchinda and his men in the coup on Feb 23, 1990. And believe it or not, some of the "unusually wealthy" politicians from the previous administration, against whom the NPKC-appointed assets investigation reported finding evidence of corruption, will join Gen Suchinda in the new Cabinet.

By begging Gen Suchinda to head a new government, the five-party coalition has directly lent legitimacy to the NPKC's intervention in the selection of a new premier. Worse, it sets a bad precedent for military leaders to usurp government power at will. Other top officers will now want a taste of government power when they near their retirement. And more coups will follow when the military leaders cannot edge out a government through more subtle means.

With Gen Suchinda as premier, Thailand will effectively come under the sort of "parliamentary dictatorship" that the NPKC warned so much about when it toppled the Chatchai administration. The coalition's 195 votes in the House and the military's control of the Senate—whose 270 members were hand-picked by Sunthon, Gen Suchinda and ACM Kaset—constitute an overwhelming majority capable of blocking any attempts at amending the Constitution and preventing no-confidence votes against Gen Suchinda.

It will be years, if not decades, before democracy in Thailand recovers from the tragic setbacks of the past year and a half. In the meantime, if the Thai people want to find someone to blame, they need look no farther than the top leaders of our military institutions and a small cabal of greedy politicans apparently incapable of feeling any responsibility to the general public.

### Opposition Leaders Deplore Support

*BK0604013392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 92 p A1, A2*

[by Monwipha Wongruchira]

[Text] Anti-military political leaders yesterday deplored their rival bloc's agreement to nominate Supreme Commander Suchinda Khraphrayun for the premiership, saying the decision reflected lack of self-respect and betrayal of the people.

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai said the five-party bloc which commands majority support in the House of Representatives had the right to nominate any person for the top post, but "people who came through an election should not have lost their self-respect."

Phalang Tham leader Chamlong Simuang said the nomination of Suchinda made the general election on March 22 "a waste of time."

The Samakkhi Tham and its allies—Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—have announced their support for Suchinda, dropping their backing for Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan, who has become embroiled in drug allegations which emanated from the United States.

"They lied to the people," Chamlong told THE NATION in a telephone interview. "Before the election, they all told the public that they are ready to become prime minister. Why didn't they tell the people then that they actually wanted to give the post to an outsider?"

Chamlong said Suchinda should not take all the criticism. "Blame it all on the five parties," he said.

Chuan dismissed suggestions that the five parties had no other choice. National Peacekeeping Council Chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong, who is constitutionally empowered to seek royal appointment of the prime minister, had expressed opposition to the agreement to nominate Narong.

"Nothing is stronger than the five parties if they want to join hands. Now what they decide will reflect their dignity and honour," Chuan said.

Chuan insisted that the Democrats still stand by their policy of supporting only an elected MP to become premier.

Asked to comment on a remark by National Peacekeeping Council Adviser Bunchana Atthakhon that the Democrats could join the coalition if Suchinda became the next premier, Chuan said: "That's only his expectation. We won't change our political stand."

He said even if a political leader, not Suchinda, became premier, that did not necessarily mean that the Democrats would join the coalition.

Chuan urged all political factions to adhere to democratic principles. "Even though it is difficult to do so, it's better to be patient than to satisfy a specific person's need," he said.

The Democrat leader talked to reporters after a religious ceremony marking the 46th anniversary of the founding of his party, which is Thailand's oldest.

Former Democrat leader Phichai Rattakun, who was also there, said he would not accept the premiership if he were Suchinda.

Phichai recounted that Suchinda had said on several public occasions that he would not accept the post.

Phichai also said there were insufficient reasons for Suchinda to claim that he was being politically forced to take the post.

"There are still many political leaders qualified to become premier," he added.

Democrat Surin Pitsuwan said the next prime minister should be an MP.

Surin said he doubted if Suchinda could suppress corruption as many politicians supporting the general had been accused of having acquired their wealth through dishonest means.

"I still think Suchinda may decline the offer," Surin said.

### Top Officers To Resign To Join Cabinet

*BK0604051292 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Apr 92 pp 1, 21*

[Text] MATICHON has been informed by an Army source that the nomination, with support of the five political parties, of General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander, as prime minister will require his resignation from his military posts. Another reshuffle of high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces will be made two days after his appointment to the premiership.

It was also reported that persons to fill the vacant posts following Gen. Suchinda's departure have already been selected. The post of supreme commander will go to Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, who will concurrently serve as the Air Force commander, while Deputy Army Commander Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi will be promoted to the post of Army commander.

Several other military officers are reportedly submitting their resignations to take ministerial posts. For instance, Gen. Chamlaeng Uchukomon, director of the National Security Central Command, will be appointed defense minister. Gen. Chatchom Kanlong, assistant Army commander, will take the post of deputy defense minister. As the result of the consequent reshuffle, a number of high-ranking Army officers will be reshuffled. Gen. Wirot Saengsanit, Army chief of staff, will be become the new deputy Army commander to replace Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Gen. Pramon Phalasin, deputy Army chief of staff for operations, and Lt. Gen. Phaibun Hongsinlak, first Army region commander, are expected to be promoted to be assistant Army commanders.

From the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha, deputy Air Force commander, will be appointed interior minister. Air Chief Marshal Suthep Theppharak, Air Force chief of staff, will be promoted to the post of deputy Air Force commander, while Air Chief Marshal M.R. Siriphong Thongyai, assistant Air Force commander, will become Air Force chief of staff. No Navy officer is reported to have resigned to take ministerial post in the new government. Metropolitan Police Commander Police Lieutenant General Wirot Pao-in will resign to serve as deputy interior minister in charge of the Police Department and be replaced by Police Major General Thanu Homhuan, commander of the Central Investigation Division [CID]. Police Major General Chamnan Suwannarat, deputy CID commander, will be appointed as CID commander.

It was also reported that a number of senators, including Wiraphong Ramangkun, Thawi Nunphakdi, and Suthi Singsane will resign to join the new cabinet. Their replacements have already been worked out. It is expected that Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong will also be appointed a new senator.

## Royal Announcements Made Concerning Senate, House

### Appoints Senate President, Deputies

*BK0404015692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[3 April Royal Announcement Appointing Senate President and Vice Presidents of the Senate]

[Text] Royal Signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously ordered it to be proclaimed:

Per the resolution adopted by the Senate on 3 April 1992 to elect:

1. Ukrit Mongkhonnawin as senate present;
2. Asa Meksawan as first vice senate president; and
3. General Wichit Bunyawat as second vice senate president.

The persons whose names are mentioned above are therefore appointed senate president and vice presidents accordingly in pursuant to Article 119 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand from now on.

Announced on 3 April 1992, being the 47th year of the present reign.

Countersigned: Anan Panyarachun, prime minister.

### Appoints House Speakers, Deputies

*BK0404024292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[3 April Royal Announcement Appointing Speaker and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives]

[Text] Royal Signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously ordered it to be proclaimed:

Per the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives on 3 April to elect:

1. Athit Urairat as House Speaker;
2. Chumphon Sinlapa-acha as first deputy house speaker; and
3. Chaowat Sutlapha as second deputy house speaker.

The persons whose names are mentioned above are therefore appointed house speaker and deputy house speakers in accordance with Article 119 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand from now on.

Announced on 3 April 1992, in the 47th year of the present reign.

Countersigned: Anan Panyarachun, prime minister.

## Vietnam

## Daily Comments on U.S. Presidential Election

*BK0504074392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[From the daily press review]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries a commentary by Yen Chi entitled: "Democracy of the Rich People," on the upcoming presidential election in the United States. The commentary says: The first round of the U.S. presidential primary elections of the Republican and Democratic parties concluded recently. Mr. Bush, current U.S. President, will be nominated as presidential candidate by the Republican Party, while Governor Clinton will be nominated by the Democratic Party.

In the first round of primaries, two Democratic candidates gave up the race because they ran short of money. It is likely that more will withdraw by the end of all of the primaries, now that only a few are left for both parties. This shows that in the United States, candidates must be very rich because they have to use a lot of money to carry out their election campaigns.

It is obvious that these two parties are the only ruling parties in the United States; other parties, if any, are small factions in the U.S. political limelight. Other U.S. citizens, no matter how competent they are, will have no chance to compete with members of these two parties. In U.S. society, there are many good politicians and scholars who want to work to improve conditions of the nation and the people's daily life, but they have no chance to participate in U.S. domestic and foreign affairs.

## PRC Bank Governor Receives SRV Counterpart

*BK2803160492 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—State Councillor and Governor of the People's Bank of China Li Guixian on March 26 received a Vietnamese banking delegation led by governor of the Vietnam State Bank Cao Si Kien currently on a visit to China as guest of the People's Bank of China.

At the reception, both host and guest agreed on the need to further develop the relations between the two state banks and promote monetary, economic, and trade exchanges between the two countries.

After leaving Beijing, Governor Cao Si Kiem, accompanied by director of the Bank for Foreign Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Manh Thuong, will visit Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

## Sympathy Message Sent to Iraq

*BK2803161192 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—The Vietnam AAPSO [Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization] committee and the Vietnam-Iraq Friendship Association have sent a joint message to their Iraqi counterparts expressing their concern over the increasingly tense situation in the Gulf.

In their message, the Vietnamese organisations expressed their sympathy to the Iraqi people over their present difficulties notably the shortage of food and medicines for children, women and the aged, and pledged to strive for an early stop to that tragedy.

## Philippine Agriculture Delegation Visits

*BK0604143392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] At the invitation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture, a Philippine agricultural delegation led by Mr. Senen Bacani, minister of agriculture, has paid a working visit to our Ministry of Agriculture.

During the visit, the delegation was received by and had cordial talk with Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet. It also held talks with Minister of Agriculture Nguyen Cong Tan and cadres of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture.

The two delegations exchanged views on issues of mutual concern in the area of agricultural production, such as assisting each other in accelerating agricultural production; creating favorable conditions for the production, marketing, exportation of a number of farm products; and expanding business relations between the two countries, especially among private companies.

After this visit, the Philippines will continue sending groups of agricultural specialists to Vietnam to explore and study the actual situation with the aim of gradually developing the specific contents of the agreement reached between the Ministries of Agriculture of the two countries.

## Agribusiness Cooperation Accord Signed

*BK0104163292 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—The ministries of agriculture of Vietnam and the Philippines signed here yesterday a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in joint ventures in agribusiness.

Signing on behalf of the Vietnamese Government was Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Nguyen Cong Tan and on behalf of the Philippine Government was Secretary of Agriculture Senen C. Bacani who arrived here March 30.

The two ministries agreed to cooperate through the exchange of materials and market information, the conduct of strategic market facilitation activities, the organisation of training courses, workshops, and seminars related to agribusiness development, the implementation of joint venture projects in agribusiness, and other means.

They also decided to set up a joint agribusiness working group to facilitate cooperation, provide guidance, identify specific activities that will lead to the implementation of the memorandum, and review the progress of such activities. The group shall meet at least once every two years alternately in their respective countries.

The agreement shall remain in force for five years.

## New Diplomatic Relations With Lithuania Praised

*BK2403041692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam and Lithuania have agreed to set up diplomatic relations at embassy level.

Lithuania is one of the Baltic republics in the former Soviet Union. So far Vietnam has set up relations with almost all the Baltic republics. The establishment of relations beween Vietnam and Lithuania is aimed at the common intersts of both countries. In fact, people in Lithuania, as well as in the other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, entertain warm feelings toward the Vietnamese. These sentiments have not been affected by changes in the former Soviet Union, and that explains why Vietnam has been among the first countries to set up relations with the

Baltic republics and other members of the CIS, which now want bilateral ties with Vietnam on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

For its part, Vietnam finds it possible to cooperate with these countries in such areas as agriculture, industry, and the operation of joint ventures. Like other members of the CIS, Lithuania has signed with Vietnam a framework agreement on economics, trade and investment.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Liuthuania provides grounds for optimism concerning the growth of relations between Vietnam and Lithuania as well as all other members of the CIS.

### Hungarian Foreign Ministry Delegation Ends Visit

*BK2803152692 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—A delegation of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry led by Assistant Secretary of State Tomaj Denes paid a three-day visit to Vietnam ending March 28 as guest of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

While here it was received by Dang Huu, chairman of the State Commission for Science and Technology and president of the Vietnamese section of the Vietnam-Hungary Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

The delegation had working sessions with a delegation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry led by Deputy Minister Nguyen Di Nien, during which the two sides informed each other of the lasted developments in their respective countries, and exchanged views on bilateral issues and international issues of common concern.

Guest and host expressed their wish to maintain and develop the bilateral relations and to find out new possibilities of cooperation for comprehensive development of these relations. They highly appreciated the results of the recent session between the two countries on economic and trade cooperation and on the settlement of debts.

The Hungarian side said that though the situation has changed, the bilateral relations remain unchanged, that Hungary wanted to step up the implementation of the reached agreements and that Hungary would take into consideration the signing of an agreement on investment protection and an agreement on double taxation evasion so as to create favourable conditions for Hungarian businesses to broaden their cooperation with Vietnam. It also said it would ensure advantageous conditions for Vietnam. It also said it would ensure advantageous conditions for Vietnamese students to complete their study programs in Hungary as agreed upon between the two countries. The two sides agreed to assign consuls to meet each other to find out satisfactory solutions to the issue of Vietnamese residing, studying, and doing businesses in Hungary and other issues relating to the consular work. The two sides deemed it necessary to have regular exchanges, at appropriate times, of visits between officials of the two foreign ministries.

### Hanoi-Kuala Lumpur Air Link Inaugurated

*BK3104164292 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31 —The Hanoi-Kuala Lumpur air link was opened here today by the Vietnam Civil Aviation Corporation. This is the second international air route from Malaysia to Vietnam. The first one is from Tan Son Nhat to Kuala Lumpur, which has been opened since January 1990. Regular flights will be carried out twice a week on Monday and Thursday, from Kuala Lumpur to Noi Bai International Airport and vice versa.

### Foreign Ministry Issues New Visa Guidelines

*BK2903091192 Hanoi VNA in English 0510 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—A circular on the collection of visa fee has been issued by the Foreign Ministry providing that payment will be in Vietnam dong for Vietnamese citizens and foreign residents and in US dollars or Vietnam dong for foreigners temporarily staying in Vietnam.

Exempted from visa fee are foreigners (and their spouses and children) invited by the party, government, National Assembly or senior state officials, staff members of the diplomatic missions and foreign consulates, and representatives of international organisations and their spouses and children under 18 years of age.

Foreigners not listed above but carrying diplomatic or service passports issued by foreign countries or the UNO, citizens of the countries which have signed agreements of [word indistinct] with Vietnam on visa fee exemption, and citizens of the countries where Vietnamese are also exempted from visa fee [sentence as received].

### Development Program for Northern Highlands Set Up

*BK2603160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1325 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—The chairman of the Council of Ministers has decided to carry out a socio-economic development programme for the northern highlands (or a general highland programme for short).

This programme sets the tasks to be performed from now to 1995 and the year 2000. These tasks include settling down the nomads, allotting land and forest land to them, protecting headwaters forests (sponsored by the Ministry of Forestry), solving the food problem, developing animal breeding and fruit-tree planting (sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry), distributing production materials and goods and promoting exports and imports (sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism), training cadres with special priority given to highland cadres (sponsored by the government commission for organisation), replacing poppy with other crops and campaigning against opium addiction (sponsored by the Mountain Areas and Ethnicities Office of the government), supplying water for daily life and production (sponsored by the Ministry of Irrigation and the Ministry of Construction), developing transport and post services (sponsored by the Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Posts), developing energy production, (sponsored by the Ministry of Energy), developing information and culture, (sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Sports) and continuing to carry out national programmes on medical care, education, and family planning (sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Training).

A managerial board of the programme chaired by the direction of the Mountain Areas and Ethnicities Office of the government has been set up to handle the implementation of the programme.

### Commercial Banks Permitted To Borrow From Public

*BK0104165092 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—Commercial banks are allowed by the governor general of the Vietnam State Bank to raise, as from April 1, 1992, funds by borrowing from the public, with loans reckoned in terms of gold price, to mobilise more idle money for economic development purposes.

The bonds will mature over terms ranging from one, three, five years and longer.

Instead of printing the face value of the bond, the amount of money in Vietnamese dong or US dollars, and that of the equivalent in gold fixed at the selling price offered by the state-run jewelry company at the time the bill is sold, will be written. Interest payments to be made every six months will be fixed at rates currently available on international market, while domestic economic conditions will also be taken into account. The minimum value of a bond shall not be below one tenth of a tael.

Only economic organisations in the country are eligible for loans from the money raised through the sale of debenture bonds. The value of the loan is also indexed on the current price of gold offered by the state-run jewelry company.

### Press Agencies, Publishers Violate Press Law

*BK2403053792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] In 1991, 18 press agencies and 11 publishing houses violated the the press and publication law. Some publishing houses, mostly in localities, abused their licenses and published books which are detrimental to social ethics in order to attract readers. Some culture, information, and sport services issued temporary publishing licenses beyond their authority. The Ministry of Culture, Information and Sport has suspended the operation of publishing houses in Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, and Hau Giang provinces; recovered and destroyed nine types of books and printed materials at variance with law; temporarily suspended the publication of specialized books under the form of newspapers; and cautioned some police services in southern provinces against transforming their internal bulletins into newspapers.

At present, some 84 types of books are being screened and proper action will be taken to deal with them.

### Phan Van Khai Attends Anti-Smuggling Conference

*BK0204035092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92*

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City on 20 March, Comrade Phan Van Khai, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended and directed the conference on market management and anti-smuggling in south Vietnam. The conference reviewed and appraised achievements by southern provinces and cities since the last conference on 2 December 1991, and discussed measures to improve the task for the days ahead.

Comrade Phan Van Khai said: To prevent and stop smuggling in order to contribute to stabilizing the socio-economic situation, we must first of all strive to strengthen our internal management, establish discipline and order at state agencies and economic establishments in accordance with the new management mechanism, and build exemplary and pure grass-roots units and urge them to seriously implement the state lines and policies.

### Phan Van Khai Attends National Budget Meeting

*BK0204034892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92*

[Text] On 13-14 March in Ho Chi Minh City, the Council of Ministers held a meeting on the 1992 national budget and its provision with chairmen of the people's committees and heads of finance sections of provinces from Quang Tri Province and southward. Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the party Political Bureau and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chaired the meeting.

Statements of local officials agreed that the resolution of the party Central Committee's second plenum on national finance policy must be thoroughly comprehended and strictly implemented. They said that the unity of the national finance on revenue collection and state expenditure administered by the state regulations must be guaranteed.

After Deputy Minister of Finance Ho Te explained the provision of revenue between central and local sectors, Vice Chairman Phan Van Khai concluded the meeting by mentioning the 1991 experiences in fighting inflation and controlling gold and U.S. dollar prices, new opportunities created by our state's correct open-door policy, and so forth. He also instructed the localities to totally understand unity in national budget management to improve their work. Together with the development of the motivation of local governments at all levels, the central and local governments must create the appropriate environment for high-rate development in the following years. They must gradually renew the budget management work and be firmly acquainted with 1992 national budget planning to increase domestic and foreign financial sources for socioeconomic development, salary and employment improvement, and controlling inflation.

## Political School Officers Convicted for Corruption

*BK0104152192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] Recently, at the conference hall of the political officer school, the military tribunal of the 1st Military Region held a preliminary hearing to publicly try Nguyen Manh Thang, finance section chief of the school; Luu Quang Le, a member of the finance section, and Bui Van Quy, assistant in charge of the school barracks. They were charged for misappropriating socialist assets and intentionally infringing the financial management principle.

Thang abused his positions and authority from 1968 to 1969, by giving loans out of school funds for interest. This was done to obtain money for his own expenses and for distribution to some members of the section. The loans which had been made to three units and individuals amounted to 120 million dong. With a 5 to 7 percent interest rate, Thang collected 6,735,300 dong. Moreover, he also embezzled 1,220,200 dong in school commodity funds. The combined sum was 7,955,800 dong.

The above defendants were discovered at the end of 1991, and the school recovered all the 120 million dong which Thang had given out as loans. The school also recouped all the embezzled money. However, considering the seriousness of the case, the 1st Military Region court has sentenced Nguyen Manh Thang to four years imprisonment for misappropirating socialist assets and one year imprisonment for abusing his position and authority to intentionally violate state prescribed principles, policy, and the system of economic management, and for causing serious consequences. The total punishment amounted to five years in prison.

Luu Quang Le and Bui Van Quy who were also implicated in the case were sentenced to four years probation and a suspended jail term of one year.

## Chemical Corps Begins Training for Recruits

*BK0104134192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] The chemical corps has established a specific recruit training plan this year according to the newly prescribed program, scope and time. Units in charge of training recruits have been established according to their tasks and are composed of troop recruitment cadres and lodging and mess cadres.

The headquarters has determined the length of the course and has conducted inspections to point out weaknesses to be overcome. Before training, units were organized into classes to instruct cadres, especially those in platoons and squads. Emphasis is also being placed on some central issues and troop management tasks, according to new regulations.

The T-6 Group conducted a cadre contest on the first day of recruit training covering subjects such as company cadres, firing instructions, squad cadres, unit regulations, inspection, morning physical training, and 16 martial arts movements.

The chemical control officer school has sent new instructors to units to work as staff cadres to help units train recruits. The school has also speedily repaired barracks and mess halls to give every recruit a bed, and every five recruits a dining table.

## Program To Ease Unemployment Drawn Up

*BK2903091592 Hanoi VNA in English 0518 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—A state employment programme has been drawn up to ease the pressure of unemqloyment which is feared to rise to 12.57 million by 1995.

Of this number, 5 million will be in rural areas where they can always find some seasonal jobs. The rest—7.57 million - will include 1.8 million college and vocational school graduates and demobilised soldiers and 180,800 repatriated guest workers.

In Hanoi, a recent survey shows that in 1991 70,000 people in working age were jobless including 60,000 who were mostly redundant workers at state-owned enterprises.

Planners think the expansion of agriculture, forestry and fishery can provide 1.2 million jobs. The balance is to be found in labour-intensive projects in both urban and rural areas, in overseas contracts as well as through job-generating resettlement projects financed by the European Community.

## Government Bans Timber Exports

*BK2703074692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Premier Vo Van Kiet, in a dramatic move to end widespread logging in central and southern Vietnam, has ordered the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism and the Ministry of Forestry to stop allowing the export of timber and sawn wood and to withdraw all permits they have issued this year.

He also ordered provincial authorities to check the validity of permits issued to sawmills and to encourage brick makers and lime and pottery makers to use coal instead of charcoal and wood.

To redeem the situation the premier asked the Ministry of Forestry to clamp strict controls on logging and poaching.

## Group Debates Held at 3 Apr Assembly Session

*BK0404103592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Apr 92*

[Report by correspondent Huy Toan in Hanoi on 3 Apr morning's group discussions by National Assembly deputies "on the laws governing the organization of the National Assembly and the election of National Assembly deputies"—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: This morning, 3 April, the National Assembly held a sitting at the conference hall to continue the debate on the laws governing the organization of the National Assembly and the election of National Assembly deputies. National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu presided over this sitting.

Prior to the debate, Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu rounded up the views of various National Assembly deputies made yesterday afternoon on the law governing the organization of the National Assembly. The majority of the deputies favor this name for the law. As for the National Assembly Standing Committee, the debaters asked that the position of general secretary of this committee be dropped and that only the positions of National Assembly chairman and vice-chairmen be maintained.

With regard to various National Assembly councils and committees, although there were differing views, the majority believe that the names of these committees should be partly modified. They also wanted the National Assembly's National Defense Council renamed as the National Defense and Security Committee. This is because such a council should be placed under the Council of State. The deputies also discussed the functions, authority, and operating procedures of these committees in order to improve their efficiency.

Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu suggested that in discussing the law on the election of National Assembly deputies, deputies focus on the right of citizens to vote and stand for election; the qualifications of deputies; the total number of deputies; the consultative program for recommending a candidate as deputy; the timing for the election; and the dismissal of a deputy.

Deputy Nguyen Thanh Huong from Thai Binh asked what the maximum voting age is if the minimum voting age is 21 years. Should the draft of the constitutional amendments set a maximum age for voters?

Also, Deputy Vuong Nguyen Dan from Cuu Long Province said: The draft should add that those who are insane or have been deprived of their citizenship be not eligible to contest in an election, as opposed to those stripped of their citizenship by the people's court or by the law in the draft of constitutional amendments.

As for the qualifications of candidates standing for the election for deputy, some debaters suggested: As in the draft, candidates should establish permanent residence in Vietnam instead of being merely a resident. This is because many have left our country and later returned, although only for a certain period of time. Thus, they shall not be qualified to stand for elections.

With regard to other qualifications, a number of deputies held that instead of merely stipulating that National Assembly deputies shall be loyal to the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and strive to carry out the renovation to make the people prosperous and the country strong, the draft should clearly state who they are carrying out renovation for. In this regard, deputy Ly Khanh Chung from Ho Chi Minh city said:

*I agree with the suggestion of deputies that the length of residence is an important matter to be considered. This is because recently there have been many overseas Vietnamese making frequent trips home. I think that the best way to define this is to state that only citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam now taking up permanent residence are qualified to stand in elections. Other citizens without a permanent residence shall not be qualified.*

*In Article 3, the phrase the socialist Vietnamese spirit is not clear enough. I suggest that we change it to: The organizational spirit of socialism.*

*Also, another phrase in the draft of constitution says: Those loyal to the country. This is not clear enough because it fails to ensure that those who are loyal to the SRV will favor the CPV's renovation policy. The line "struggling to carry out renovation to make the people prosperous and the country strong" is also not clear. Instead, we should say this: Those favoring the renovation policy of the CPV.*

As for the capabilities and knowledge of deputies, deputy Dinh Gia Huan from Nam Ha said: We should establish a standard for this. What educational qualifications and expertise do they need to have?

In this matter, deputy Vu Thi Lien from Haiphong said:

*In Article 3, I support the views of the various comrades about the quality and length of each National Assembly session, and the total number of sessions in a year. I think the most important factor is the knowledge of National Assembly deputies.*

*In Article 3, I agree that the knowledge of National Assembly deputies cannot be determined, and this should be clearly defined in a by-law. I think we should be flexible about this, as the educational level of National Assembly deputies depend on the regions they come from. Deputies from urban areas normally have a higher educational level than those from other areas. That is the first point. The second is that deputies should not remain in the*

*National Assembly for more than two consecutive terms. Given the fact that we now have one National Assembly deputy for every 183,000 people, we should not allow a National Assembly deputy to remain in the assembly for 15 consecutive years. Furthermore, I think this is very important because the Constitution specifies that government officials and ministers do not have to be National Assembly deputies.*

As far as capabilities and knowledge are concerned, deputy Do Khac Cuong from Yen Bai Province subscribed to deputy Vu Thi Lien's views. He added that although these should not be specified in detail, we should emphasize the phrase: It is necessary to actively implement the renovation line of the CPV and not to practice corruption.

Regarding this, some held that the phrase "It is necessary not to practice corruption", should not be specified. This is because a man who practices corruption does not deserve to be a National Assembly deputy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Regarding the number of deputies, most of the views held that the number of deputies for each National Assembly term should not exceed 400. However, it is not necessary to specify that each province should have at least three deputies. The number of deputies for a province should be based on its population. It is necessary to stipulate a specific number of deputies for big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

On the pattern of consultation to nominate candidates for election to the National Assembly or to hold a by-election, deputy Vuong Nguon Dan from Cuu Long Provice said:

*We think the structure of National Assembly deputies is very important. The question we want to raise is how to ensure the great national solidarity bloc. As regards Article 8, we recommend that the number of National Assembly deputies be about 390. We suggest that all the objectives be clearly stipulated to ensure a good structure. For example: ethnic people, female members, religious members, and so on. In the Eighth National Assembly, some provinces did not have any female delegates as there is no clear stipulation on this matter. We know that the people's councils in some localities do not have any female members. We find this situation contrary to reality. Our party and state are very concerned about this issue.*

As for other chapters in the bill on the election of National Assembly deputies, deputy Nguyen Van Khiet of Minh Hai Province said:

*I find Article 29 is unclear when it says the presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee and the VFF standing committees of provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government must send a list of nominees who will run in the elections to the National Assembly for consultation. This article is very important. On the basis of nomination by various agencies, mass organizations, state agencies, and so forth, the presidium will then rearrange the list of nominees and hold debates to reach an agreement on the final nominees. We must be allowed to adjust and also present our recommendations. How about scientific cadres and artists? We must be allowed to reach an agreement on the adjustment and so [passage indistinct]. We are responsible for enforcing the stipulations in this law which say that National Assembly deputies must set both criteria and [words indistinct] in all domains.*

Dear friends: At this morning's sitting, the National Assembly deputies also debated other issues in the bill on organizing the National Assembly. These include whether the people's aspiration committee in the National Assembly should be established and what will be this committee's operational scope. As it is, whenever voters try to submit complaints and letters of denunciation to the National Assembly, their correspondence have usually been routed around by various state agencies and are rarely handled properly. Furthermore, this does not involve complaints but also requests for the settlement of major national issues. As a result, the National Assembly must have this committee. Moreover, the supervisory authority of deputies, the duties of the National Assembly standing committee, and the State Council chairman must also be clearly defined.

This afternoon, the National Assembly deputies continued their discussions at the conference hall on the 1992 state budget. Some 15 deputies focused their views on the increase of state budget revenue sources, on rational spending to ensure the activities of socioeconomic sectors, and continued efforts to curb inflation.

The National Assembly will continue its work tomorow, 4 April, at the conference hall.

## National Assembly 4 Apr Morning Session Reported

*BK0404062292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] This morning, 4 April, the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session entered the 11th day of work with a plenary sitting in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the chairmanship of its President Le Quang Dao.

The deputies continued to debate the Council of Ministers' report on addenda to the 1992 state budget estimate. The deputies focused on debating the following issues: Capacity of revenue sources, measures to organize and secure the revenue sources, structure to distribute budgetary expenditures, measures to deal with budgetary overdraft, management of budget, decentralization of budgetary management between central and local levels, increase of electricity costs, and building the north-south high voltage line.

Also during this morning sitting, the deputies listened to Energy Minister Vu Ngoc Hai report specifically on the plans and measures to control the installation of the orth-outh high voltage line.

The national assembly will continue its plenary sitting this afternoon in the conference hall.

### Afternoon Session 4 Apr

*BK0404113892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] This afternoon, the National Assembly worked at the conference hall, where it voted to pass some contents of the draft revised Constitution under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

First, Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary general of the Council of State, reread the Preamble of the draft revised Constitution, which had been readjusted.

Later, the deputies continued expressing their views on a number of details and contents of the Preamble with the aim of making it more suitable.

Finally, they voted to pass the plan for the final readjustment of various points in the Preamble and Article 8 of Chapter 1, which deals with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its political system.

Tomorrow, Sunday 5 April, the National Assembly will take a day off.

### Communique No. 10 Issued 4 Apr

*BK0404151892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Communique No. 10 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 4 April 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary sitting at the conference hall. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao presided over this sitting.

In the morning, the National Assembly continued its debate over the Council of Ministers' report on addenda to the 1992 state budget estimate. There were 16 deputies airing their views about the Council of Ministers' efforts to generate revenue sources for the state budget and to intensify measures against collection shortfalls. They emphasized the need to approve an appropriate increase in spending to guarantee the living conditions of cadres and combatants in the armed forces; carry out wage reform in the educational sector; solve a number of pressing social problems; resolutely ensure enough cash for the procurement of farm produce and for increased production; stabilize prices; bring down inflation; increase electricity consumption fees; and build a north-south high voltage powerline.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly deputies gave their views over the revision of the Preamble and voted to pass Articles 1 through 8 of Chapter 1 in the draft of the revised Constitution.

On 6 April 1992, the National Assembly will be in session at the conference hall.

### Assembly 6 Apr Morning Session Reported

*BK0604120792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] This morning, 6 April 1992, the National Assembly continued to meet in the conference hall, voting and passing the draft of the revised Constitution. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the sitting.

On behalf of the Constitutional Amendments Committee compiling body, Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary general of the Council of State, read Articles 9-14 of Chapter 1 on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its political system as well as Articles 15-22 of Chapter 2 of the draft of the revised Constitution. Next, the deputies aired their views on and passed each article with a majority of votes.

In the afternoon, the deputies continued to meet in the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. On behalf of the Constitutional Amendments Committee compiling body, Comrade Pham Quoc Bao read Articles 23-29 of Chapter 2 and Articles 30-36 of Chapter 3 of the draft of the revised Constitution dealing with culture, education, science, and technology.

The deputies discussed, aired their views, and passed the above-mentioned articles with a majority of votes. Regarding Article 18 of Chapter 2 and Article 30 of Chapter 3, since the deputies still disagreed on a number of details, the National Assembly asked the compiling body to revise them pending public discussion and passage at the next session.

Thus, after three working sessions in the conference hall, the National Assembly passed the Preamble and 36 articles of the draft of the revised Constitution.

Tomorrow, 7 April 1992, the National Assembly will continue to meet in the conference hall.

### Communique No. 11 Issued 6 Apr

*BK0604145692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Communique No 11 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 6 April the National Assembly held a plenary session in the conference hall. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

The deputies continued their discussions and voted and passed Articles 9-11 of Chapter 1 of the draft of the revised Constitution dealing with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its political system; Articles 15-29 of Chapter 2 dealing with the economic system; and Articles 30-36 of Chapter 3 dealing with culture, education, science, and technology.

On 7 April the National Assembly will continue its plenary session in the conference hall.

## Australia

### Government Condemns Attack on Iranian Embassy

*BK0604093892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Canberra, April 6 (AFP)—Australia condemned an attack on Iran's embassy here Monday after three employees of the mission were injured by some 15 people who burst through the front door and wrecked the interior of the building.

Australian Federal Police spokesman Brian Swift said three people were assaulted in the attack and damage was extensive, with windows smashed, fires lit, and slogans painted on walls.

Graphic television footage by the Special Broadcasting Service showed embassy officials being bashed with iron bars and the spraying of Arabic slogans on walls in the building.

A witness, Don Cipars, told reporters group members shouted "Freedom to Iraq" as they left the embassy.

Acting Foreign Minister John Kerin issued a statement condemning the attack as deplorable and expressing his government's regrets to Tehran and embassy staff, promising action would be taken to prosecute the perpetrators.

Police were questioning at least three men detained following the incident.

(Opponents of Iran's Government attacked Iranian diplomatic missions in eight European cities, Ottawa and New York Sunday to protest an Iranian air raid on an opposition guerrilla base in Iraq.

(The attacks swiftly followed the Sunday morning bombing by Iranian F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers of a base of the People's Mojahedin in Ashraf, northeast of Baghdad, in which one warplane was claimed shot down.)

Swift said about 15 men were in the group, which began the assault at lunchtime, throwing bottles, eggs, and stones at the embassy and cars parked inside the compound and tearing down the Iranian flag from its pole.

Federal Police Commander Ric Ninness later admitted at a news conference that embassy officials had contacted police early Monday seeking extra security.

He said that while extra patrols had been ordered, no police guard was assigned to the mission in the heart of the national capital's diplomatic precinct.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department said security had been tightened at the embassy following the attack.

Meanwhile, the Swiss Foreign Ministry on Monday also condemned an attack on the Iranian Embassy in Bern on Sunday.

Swiss police arrested 24 members of the Iranian opposition People's Mojahedin organisation who broke into the embassy and threw documents and furniture out of the windows.

### Evans Concerned Over DPRK Nuclear Potential

*BK0104015492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Australia has warned North Korea that it faces an international response over its nuclear weapons potential. The foreign minister, Gareth Evans, said Australia was deeply concerned by the evidence of substantial nuclear facilities in North Korea.

He said America's Central Intelligence Agency predicts that North Korea could have a nuclear bomb within months.

[Begin recording] [Evans] And might I take this further opportunity, in the strongest possible terms, to urge North Korea to quickly allow International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and therefore allay the concerns which are very widespread in the international community about its nuclear intentions.

If the international community can't be reassured in this way, then we will be faced with a very serious situation indeed, in which further measures will need to be considered. For obvious reasons I don't want to canvass what those measures might be. That will be a matter for the international community as whole, but I hope very much indeed that it won't come to that. [end recording]

### Evans on 'Imminent' Withdrawal From Cambodia

*BK0404091892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 4 Apr 92*

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says Australia's United Nations Peacekeeping Force will be withdrawn from Cambodia if loss of life becomes imminent. His comments follow a similar statement by Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Senator Evans has also rejected criticism made by Cambodian prime minister, Hun Sen, on Australia's position. Mr. Hun Sen said peacekeeping forces have been sent to Cambodia because the country had been at war. He added if Cambodia had been at peace the troops would have been invited as tourists, not peacekeeping forces.

Sen. Evans said Mr. Hun Sen knows very well the nature of the peace settlement and the basis on which the UN troops are in Cambodia.

## Papua New Guinea

### Government Postpones Melanesian Spearhead Summit

*BK0604044892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 6 Apr 92*

[Text] Papua New Guinea has postponed this week's planned Melanesian Spearhead Group Summit after Solomon Islands announced it would boycott the meeting. Solomon Islands prime minister, Solomon Mamalone, said yesterday that his country would not be represented at the summit in Wewak in Papua New Guinea [PNG] because he was still waiting for an official apology from the Port Moresby Government following two cross border raids by PNG commandos last month.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department in Port Moresby said the Spearhead Group summit was being deferred until a future date. The group comprises Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

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